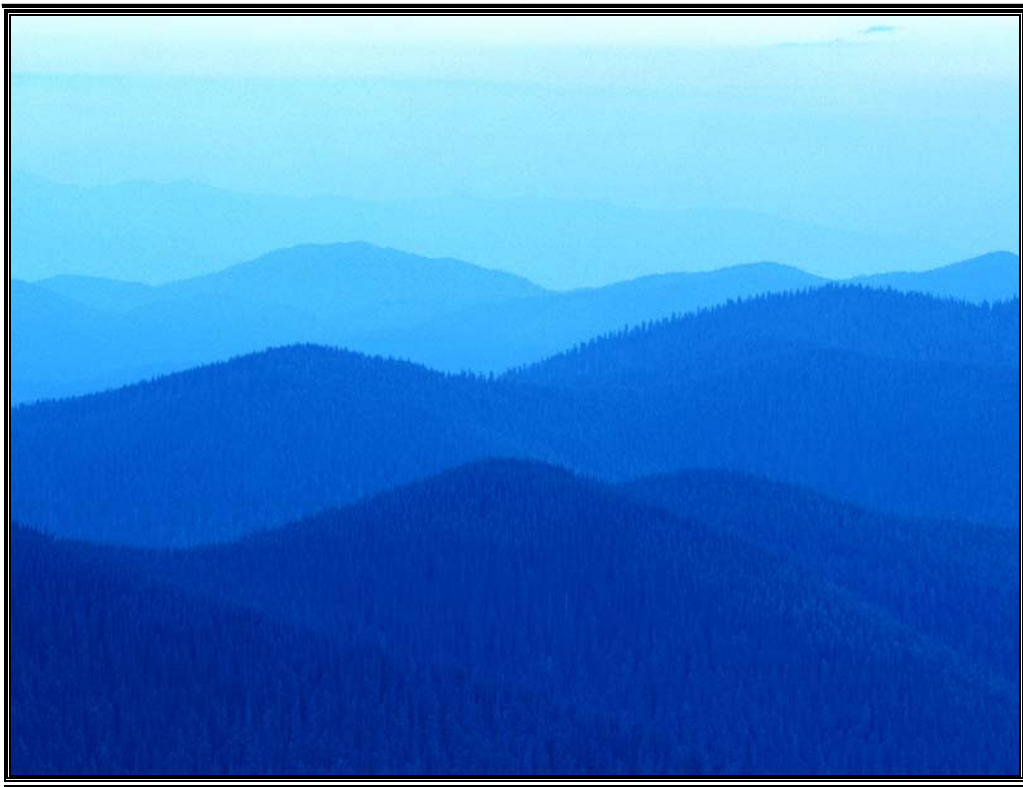


**Time Line: African American History 1619-1900, as a Framework for  
the Study of Tennessee's State Legislators of the Reconstruction Era**



Created by Kathy B. Lauder  
Archival Technical Services  
Tennessee State Library and Archives  
A project designed for the Black Caucus of the Tennessee General Assembly  
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Research and writing: Kathy B. Lauder  
Web design: Robert A. Greene

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Ann Alley, Archivist, TSLA  
Darla Brock, Archivist, TSLA  
Dr. Tommie F. Brown, TN State Representative, District 28, Hamilton County  
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Susan Gordon, Archivist, TSLA  
Irene Griffey, Certified Genealogist, Clarksville, TN  
Beth M. Howse, Librarian, Special Collections, John Hope and Aurelia Elizabeth  
Franklin Library, Fisk University, Nashville, TN  
Marylin Hughes, Senior Archivist, TSLA  
Dr. Robert E. Hunt, Professor, Department of History, MTSU  
Paul T. Kwami, Director, Fisk Jubilee Singers  
Karina McDaniel, State Photographer, Preservation Services, TSLA  
Vincent McGrath, Legislative History Coordinator, TSLA  
Dr. Wayne C. Moore, Director of Archives, TSLA  
LaDonna T. Nelms, Executive Assistant to Representative Tommie F. Brown  
Charles Nelson, Director of Legislative Services, TSLA  
John D. Nemoy, Esq., Curb Records, Inc.  
C. Michael Norton, Attorney at Law  
Greg Poole, Archivist, TSLA  
Tim Pulley, Director, Brown Harvey Genealogical Room, Montgomery County Library  
John-Paul Richiuse, Director of Archival Technical Services, TSLA  
Carol Roberts, Director of Preservation Services, TSLA  
Johnny Shaw, TN State Representative, District 80, Hardeman & Madison Counties  
Mike Slate, Publisher, *Nashville Historical Newsletter*  
D. Ralph Sowell, Archivist, TSLA  
Jeanne Sugg, Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist  
Laine Sutherland, Archivist, TSLA  
Gwynn Thayer, Archivist, TSLA  
Ron Walter, President and General Manager, WREG-TV, Memphis  
Thomas E. Weeks, Legislative Librarian, Tennessee General Assembly

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[preservation.tsla@state.tn.us](mailto:preservation.tsla@state.tn.us)

Tennessee State Library and Archives  
403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
Telephone: (615) 741-2764 Fax: (615) 532-2472  
<http://www.state.tn.us/tsla/>

## **Time Line: African American History 1619-1900: A Framework for the Study of Tennessee's Black State Legislators of the 1870s and 1880s**

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## **Time Line: African American History 1619-1900: A Framework for the Study of Tennessee's Black State Legislators of the 1870s and 1880s**

**Numbers in red relate to corresponding documents in the Appendix following the Time Line.**  
**Tennessee events are marked with the orange letters "TN."**

### **1619**

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Nineteen Africans are shipped to Jamestown, Virginia, on Dutch ships, as indentured servants. [<http://www.nps.gov/boaf/timeline.htm>] The Dutch, Spanish, and Portuguese all send African slaves to work in both North and South America during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. [<http://www.sciway.net/hist/chicora/slavery18-2.html>]

### **1624**

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Africans are imported as slaves to the Hudson River Valley in New York State. [[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

### **1638**

Feb. 2

Eight years after the settlement of Boston, a ship named *Desire* arrives in Boston with its first African slaves. [<http://www.nps.gov/boaf/timeline.htm>]

### **1641**

---

Although slavery is never technically illegal in the colonies [Hunt], Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth are the first colonies to authorize slavery through legislation as part of the *1641 Body of Liberties*. They will be followed by Connecticut (1650), Virginia (1661), Maryland (1663), New York and New Jersey (1664), South Carolina (1682), Rhode Island and Pennsylvania (1700), North Carolina (1715), and Georgia (1750). [[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

### **1645**

---

The triangular slave trade begins about this time—a Boston ship brings African slaves to the West Indies to be traded for sugar, tobacco, and liquor; these products are then taken to New England to be sold for lumber (including masts for the ships) and manufactured goods. [[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)] Newport, Rhode Island, and Salem, Massachusetts, will become major ports during this period, which marks the beginning of the extensive introduction of African slaves into the British West Indies to work on the sugar plantations. In some respects it can be considered the first industrial revolution, in which profit results directly from the use of cheap labor. [Hunt]

### **1661**

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The Barbados Slave Code establishes a legal base for slavery in Barbados. It denies slaves even the basic rights guaranteed under English common law, including the right to life, and allows the slaves' owners to treat their slaves however they wish, without fear of reprisal. [<http://barbados-slave-code.biography.ms/>] Thus the West Indies begins the process of making slavery both African and brutal by statute. [Hunt]

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From 1660 to about 1710, slavery follows a pattern of conversion to the West Indies model. At the beginning there is some ambiguity concerning distinctions between slavery and indentured servitude. As the planter

class develops, slavery begins to be considered an essential ingredient in the successful establishment of such cash crops as rice in South Carolina. [<http://www.sciway.net/hist/chicora/slavery18-2.html>] Within 50 years, Charles Town (Charleston), South Carolina, will become the largest mainland slave market. [Berlin]

## **1664**

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As the English take control of New York, slaves make up about 20% of the population of the city. [Berlin]

## **1675**

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King Philip's War begins as population growth and new leadership in the New England colonies create tensions between the settlers and the Native Americans over territory and resources. This exceptionally violent year-long war will decimate both sides, destroy land and property, and result in the end of traditional ways of life in the native communities – hundreds of natives are forced into servitude or sold into slavery in the West Indies, a common practice until around 1720. [Hunt]

## **1680**

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By the third decade of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a system of organized agricultural slavery is well established in the Chesapeake region. Virginia's slave population will grow from 3,000 in 1680 to 27,000 by 1720. [<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6521>]

## **1688**

Feb. 18

The first American protest against slavery is organized by Quakers in Germantown, Pennsylvania.

[[http://www.vmf.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmf.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

## **1696**

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South Carolina adopts the provisions of the Barbados Slave Code and establishes the basic outline for slavery in the British North American colonies. [<http://barbados-slave-code.biography.ms/>]

## **1710**

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Slaves make up more than 1/6 of the population of Philadelphia. [Berlin]

## **1712**

Apr. 7

Nine whites are killed during a New York slave revolt; 21 slaves are executed. [<http://www.afro.com/history/slavery/revolts.html>]

## **1732**

June 20

Georgia is founded. It is the only colony that ever specifically attempts to make slavery illegal. Its founder James Oglethorpe, who intends to create a classless society, wants to reserve the land and the jobs for English labor. [Hunt] Oglethorpe and the other Trustees interview all potential colonists, choosing carpenters, farmers, bakers, and other tradesmen who can build the colony into a efficiently functioning settlement. Despite the founders' declared intention of providing a haven for debtors in English prisons, not one such individual is among the original colonists. [<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-1058&pid=s-45>]

**1739**

Sept. 9

Slaves revolt in Stono, South Carolina: 25 whites are killed before the revolt is suppressed [<http://www.afro.com/history/slavery/revolts.html>]

**1741**

March

A series of suspicious fires and rumors of slave conspiracies cause a widespread panic in New York: 31 black slaves and five whites are executed. [<http://www.afro.com/history/slavery/revolts.html>]

**1749**

May 19

The Georgia Trustees petition King George II to permit them to repeal the colony's prohibition against slavery. By October he agrees to their request. [<http://www.ourgeorgiahistory.com/chronpop/3>]

**1751**

Jan. 1

Slavery becomes legal in Georgia.  
[<http://www.ourgeorgiahistory.com/chronpop/3>]

**1752**

---

Landon Carter, a Virginia plantation owner, begins his journal, which provides an intimate look at plantation life and the isolation, uncertainties, and fears of the planter class. His journals, written until his death in 1778, also provide a record of the Colonies' movement toward revolution. [Hunt]

**1753**

September

John Woolman, a New Jersey Quaker, writes in his Journal that he has embarked on a campaign to convince other Friends to give up their slaves.

**1758**

Mar. 15

In order not to discourage the settlement of skilled laborers in the state, Georgia prohibits slaves from working as carpenters, masons, bricklayers, plasterers, or joiners. [<http://www.ourgeorgiahistory.com/chronpop/3>]

**1760**

Dec. 25

Jupiter Hammon, a New York slave, publishes the poem, "An Evening Thought: Salvation by Christ, with Penitential Cries."  
[[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

**1770**

Mar. 5

Crispus Attucks, a runaway slave, is the first person killed in the Boston Massacre. [[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

June 28

Quakers open a school for black students in Philadelphia. William Penn holds monthly meetings for blacks, advocating emancipation.  
[[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]  
[<http://www.nps.gov/boaf/timeline.htm>]

**1773**

Jan. 6

Massachusetts slaves petition the state legislature for their freedom.  
[[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

Sept. 1

Phyllis Wheatley, a Boston slave, publishes *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, the first book by an African American.  
[[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

## 1775

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April

The first African American Masonic group is organized.

The first abolitionist society in the United States is organized in Philadelphia. [[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

Nov. 16

Lord Dunmore, the Royal Governor of Virginia, issues the first mass emancipation of slaves in American history (Lord Dunmore's Proclamation [#1](#)) when he offers freedom to Virginia's slaves if they will agree to aid the British cause by serving in the Army. Within a month, Dunmore raises 800 soldiers, more than doubling his troops.

[<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/blackloyalists/story/revolution/dunmore.htm>]

Dec. 14

The Virginia House of Burgesses declares Dunmore's Proclamation "encouragement to a general insurrection" and threatens all rebelling slaves with a death sentence – the Virginia Declaration [#2](#)

[<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/blackloyalists/story/revolution/dunmore.htm>]

## 1776

July 4

The Declaration of Independence is adopted. (A section denouncing the slave trade failed to be approved by the Continental Congress on July 1, when both Northern and Southern slave-holding delegates object; it does not appear in the final draft.) [#3](#)

[[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

## 1777

July 8

Vermont publishes its first constitution [*calling itself a state, although not admitted to statehood until March 4, 1791 – it is more of an independent republic at this point*], and becomes the first American colony to abolish slavery [#4](#); a number of others will follow over the next ten years.

[[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)] However, many of the state emancipation laws specify only gradual abolition, beginning with the second or third generation after the law takes effect. Slaves can be found in the Pennsylvania census through 1850. [[Hunt](#)]

## 1779

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Dec. [TN](#)

Around 5,000 African American soldiers participate in the American Revolutionary War. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

Robert, James Robertson's black servant, is among the small party of explorers who select the Fort Nashborough site in Middle Tennessee. By 1800, nearly half the population of the settlement (154 of 345) are African Americans – all but three of them are slaves. [[Goodstein](#)]

---

In *Commonwealth v. Jennison*, slavery is declared unconstitutional in Massachusetts. Chief Justice William Cushing declares that the state constitution grants rights incompatible with slavery, yet the Massachusetts constitution (1780) will never be amended specifically to prohibit slavery. [<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part2/2h38.html>]

## 1787

Sept. 17

Although the Continental Congress excludes slavery from the Northwest Territory, the U.S. Constitution, with three clauses recognizing slavery, is completed in Philadelphia and sent out to the states for ratification.

[[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

November The African Methodist Episcopal church is founded in Philadelphia, despite resistance from both blacks and whites who are uncomfortable with the idea of forming independent (rather than merely segregated) congregations. [<http://religiousmovements.lib/virginia.edu/nrms/ame.html>] A.M.E. Founder Richard Allen chooses Methodism as the basis for his church because it emphasizes “the plain and simple gospel” as well as a strong commitment to education and self help. When this first group unites with churches in other cities in 1816, Richard Allen will be elected the first bishop of the A.M.E. Church. [<http://www.ame-hurch.org/amehist.html>] African Americans are creating their own national institutions long before the slave system comes to an end. [Hunt]

--- Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Rush join the Pennsylvania Abolition Society and help to write its constitution. The organization, established in 1784, takes an active roll in litigation on behalf of free blacks. [<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part3/3p249.html>]

## **1789**

Apr. 30

George Washington is inaugurated President (1789-1797).

## **1790**

---

Jefferson proposes a Southwest Ordinance similar to the Northwest Ordinance, but the legislation passed by Congress establishes no prohibition on slavery in U.S. territory south of the Ohio River.

## **1791**

--- **TN**

The population of the Tennessee Territory is 35,691; of those, 3,417 (9.6 percent) are black. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

March

President George Washington appoints Benjamin Banneker, an African American scientist, to the commission that surveys the District of Columbia. [[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

Aug. 22

The Haitian war of independence begins when over 100,000 slaves rise up against the greatly outnumbered French planters. Revolutionary leader François Dominique Toussaint L’Ouverture ultimately forms a strategic alliance with the French but maintains control of the island, becoming military dictator. [<http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/DIASPORA/HAITI.HTM>]

## **1793**

Feb. 12

The first Fugitive Slave Law requires runaway slaves to be returned to their owners. [[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

## **1794**

Jan. 16 **TN**

Robert “Black Bob” Renfro, although still a slave, is licensed by Davidson County “to sell Liquor and Victuals” in his own tavern. (Bob, the slave of Joseph Renfro, was part of John Donelson’s party during their historic river voyage, parting company with the Donelson group near present-day Clarksville on 12 April 1780.) Bob will be involved in several precedent-setting court cases, prevailing in at least three cases before white juries.

[<http://pages.prodigy.net/nhn.slate/nh00063.html>]

June 20

Eli Whitney patents the cotton gin, making cotton both easier and faster to process and revitalizing the demand for slave labor in the cotton fields. [[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

## **1797**

Mar. 4

John Adams is inaugurated the nation's second President (1797-1801).

## **1800**

--- **TN**

Aug. 30

Of Nashville's 345 inhabitants, 154 are black. [Goodstein] Fourteen of them are free; by 1810, 130 free blacks live in Nashville. [Lovett] Gabriel Prosser, a Virginia slave, gathers an army of slaves (estimated at 1000-4000 individuals) and prepares to attack Richmond. They are foiled by informants and severe weather. Prosser and others are captured and hanged. [<http://civilwar.bluegrass.net/secessioncrisis/prosserrebellion.html>]

## **1801**

Mar. 4

Nov. 10 **TN**

Thomas Jefferson is inaugurated the nation's third President (1801-1809). Nashvillian "Black Bob" Renfro is granted emancipation from his owner Robert Searcy by an act of the Fourth Tennessee General Assembly. (Early Tennessee legislatures often sanctioned the voluntary manumission of slaves by their owners.) [<http://pages.prodigy.net/nhn.slate/nh00063.html>]

## **1803**

April

Toussaint L'Ouverture, leader of the Haitian slave rebellion, is tricked by Napoleon into leaving Haiti and dies in a French prison. His lieutenant, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, carries on the struggle against Napoleon's generals: first Victor Leclerc, later Jean-Baptiste Rochambeau. Hundreds of people die in the violent fighting; shocking atrocities are committed by both sides. [<http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/DIASPORA/HAITI.HTM>]

Apr. 30

Napoleon, understanding that the loss of Haiti will end his dreams of a Caribbean sugar empire, offers to sell the Louisiana Territory (which he now no longer needs) to the U.S. [<http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/cabildo/cab4.htm>]

Nov. 28

Rochambeau surrenders. Dessalines declares Haiti to be an independent republic. Because the rebellion is successful, it will forever after haunt American plantation owners with the specter of violent overthrow; an early response will be the American Colonization Society (1816). [Hunt]

## **1807**

Mar. 25

The British Parliament abolishes the slave trade. Although Congress will also ban the importation of slaves into the U.S. after January 1, 1808, slave shipments to America will continue virtually unchallenged until 1859. [[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

## **1809**

Mar. 4

James Madison is inaugurated the nation's fourth President (1809-1817).

## **1811**

Jan. 8-10

Louisiana slaves revolt in two parishes near New Orleans. The largest slave revolt in the United States, the violence is suppressed by federal troops. [<http://www.afro.com/history/slavery/revolts.html>]

## **1815**

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About 2,000,000 Africans now live in America; around ten percent of them (roughly 200,000) are free persons of color. [<http://personal.denison.edu/~waite/liberia/history/acs.htm>]

## **1816**

July 27

Federal troops are sent to destroy a Maroon (runaway-slave) settlement in Apalachicola Bay, Florida. About 300 Maroons, supported by about 20 Native Americans, hold off the troops from a tightly-constructed fort until a lucky shot from a U.S. cannon hits the Maroons' powder supply. Most of the people in the fort are killed in the resulting explosion; the forty survivors are sent back to Georgia to be sold at auction.

[<http://www.buckyogi.com/footnotes/nata.htm>]

Dec. 21

The American Colonization Society is established in Washington, D.C. Its upper-class, white male membership – which includes James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, Francis Scott Key, Henry Clay, and Daniel Webster – consists of both philanthropists and slave owners who, for reasons ranging from altruism to fear, want to enable blacks to return to Africa. They eventually gain Congressional support and provide ships for the purpose; the first settlement (1820) in what is now Liberia will grow very slowly, as the settlers struggle against yellow fever and armed resistance from the natives. [<http://personal.denison.edu/~waite/liberia/history/acs.htm>]

## **1817**

Mar. 4

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James Monroe is inaugurated the nation's fifth President (1817-1825). Richard Allen's Bethel A.M.E. Church hosts the first general mass meeting of blacks to protest the deportation policies of the American Colonization Society. Three thousand people attend. [<http://www.ame-church.org/amehist.htm>]

## **1820**

Mar. 6

The Missouri Compromise settles the issue of slavery in the areas obtained by the Louisiana Purchase. Missouri joins the Union as a slave state, while Maine balances it as a free state. All remaining sections of the Louisiana Territory lying north of 36 degrees 30 minutes north latitude are to be free. (This limitation will later be overturned by the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act and by the 1857 Dred Scott case.) [<http://www.nps.gov/boaf/timeline.htm>]  
The act provides that any fugitive slave "escaping into any...state or territory of the United States...may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labour or service" – but, as will be reiterated in the Thirteenth Amendment (1865), even in the free territories, "slavery and involuntary servitude ... in the punishment of crimes" is not prohibited. [<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part3/3h511.html>]

## **1822**

---

The Illinois legislature passes a resolution to amend the state constitution to permit slavery. [<http://www.afrigeneas.com/states/il/>] Anti-slavery activists fight the proposal, which is defeated in the 1824 election. [<http://www.afrigeneas.com/states/il/>]

May 30

Denmark Vesey, a carpenter and former slave who bought his own freedom in 1800, designs one of the most complex slave plots in history, involving thousands of African Americans in the Charleston, South Carolina, area. On this date, the plot is revealed by a "house slave," and Vesey and more than 130 others are arrested; 37 will eventually be hanged. [<http://www.afro.com/history/slavery/revolts.html>]

## **1824**

Aug. 2

Illinois passes a referendum declaring the state free; nevertheless, a complex series of indenture and apprenticeship laws along with frequent kidnappings of black workers will maintain a system not much different from slavery for many years. [<http://www.afrigeneas.com/states/il/>]

## **1825**

Mar. 4

John Quincy Adams becomes the nation's sixth President (1825-1829).

## **1826**

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By this time, 2,638 African Americans have migrated to Liberia. [<http://personal.denison.edu/~waite/liberia/history/acs.htm>]

## **1827**

Mar. 16

*Freedom's Journal* is published in New York City. It is the first of about 40 black newspapers published before the Civil War. [[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

## **1829**

Mar. 4

Andrew Jackson is inaugurated the nation's 7th President (1829-1837).

Aug. 10

Following a race riot in Cincinnati, Ohio, more than 1,000 African Americans leave the city for Canada.

[<http://www.afro.com/history/slavery/revolts.html>]

## **1830**

Sept. 20

The first national African American convention meets in Philadelphia to discuss the abolition of slavery. About 40 delegates attend from various states. [[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

## **1831**

Jan. 1

William Lloyd Garrison publishes the first issue of the *Liberator*, an abolitionist journal.

[[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

Aug. 21

Nat Turner, born during Gabriel Prosser's slave rebellion (1800), leads a band of about 40 slaves from house to house through Southampton County, Virginia, stabbing, shooting, or clubbing every white person they encounter. They kill at least 55 people before being caught and executed. Courts in Virginia and North Carolina will execute more than 50 people charged with participating, and vengeful mobs, mobilized by panic, will kill 200 more. [<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part3/3p1518.html>]

December

The Virginia legislature considers a petition to emancipate Virginia's slaves. A motion to reject it outright is defeated. In the intense debate that follows, one legislator will declare slavery "the greatest curse that God in His wrath ever inflicted upon a people." [<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/available/etd-4744152149731401/unrestricted/INTRO.PDF>] Living in the climate of fear created by the Nat Turner rebellion, and facing the growing belief that slavery may be a hindrance to economic development, the legislature earnestly debates a gradual emancipation statute. [Hunt] "The arguments expressed during the Virginia slavery debate...profoundly [shape] the development of future justifications for slavery. Faced with an opportunity to abolish slavery in Virginia, what [results] instead [is] the ideological cornerstone of the Southern Confederacy." [Curtis]

## 1832

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Dec. 10

The Nullification Controversy pits President Jackson against South Carolina Senator John C. Calhoun in a debate about the rights of a state to nullify federal law. The first state to have over-planted its soil to the point where its productivity has diminished, South Carolina (concerned that Congress might also claim the power to terminate slavery) declares the increasing federal tariffs null and void and threatens to secede. [[http://college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/rcah/html/ah\\_065800\\_nullificatio.htm](http://college.hmco.com/history/readerscomp/rcah/html/ah_065800_nullificatio.htm)]  
Jackson's Nullification Proclamation, declaring that states' rights justify neither nullification nor secession, is his confrontational response to South Carolina's action. The President's tough stand on the issue demonstrates his confidence in his strong bipartisan support from both sides of the North-South divide. [Hunt]

## 1833

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Dec. 3

John C. Calhoun and Henry Clay persuade Congress to pass the Compromise Tariff, which slowly lowers the duties on cotton.  
The first classes are held at Oberlin College in Ohio. It is one of the first colleges to admit African American students – the first black students will be admitted in the fall of 1835; by 1860 one-third of its students will be black. Oberlin also pioneers “the joint education of the sexes,” enrolling both males and females from the beginning. In 1862 Oberlin graduate Mary Jane Patterson will become the first black woman to earn a college degree. [<http://www.oberlin.edu/external/EOG/womenshist/women.html>]  
[[http://faculty.washington.edu/qtaylor/aa\\_history\\_public/aatimeline\\_1800-1900.htm](http://faculty.washington.edu/qtaylor/aa_history_public/aatimeline_1800-1900.htm)]

--- **TN**

Birth year of Davidson County Representative **Sampson W. Keeble**. The first African American elected to the Tennessee General Assembly, Keeble was born a slave in Rutherford County, TN.  
[*Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*]

## 1834

May 19 **TN**

Tennessee holds a Constitutional Convention. Major issues under discussion include taxation and representation. Andrew Johnson attempts to limit the influence of slave owners by limiting representation in the General Assembly to the white population alone. Antislavery groups petition to abolish slavery, but the convention denies their appeals, instead adding language to require the approval of slave owners before passing any statutes related to emancipation. [“Government”]

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Black Baptists in Ohio form the Providence Baptist Association; four years later a group in Illinois will form the Wood River Baptist Association. [<http://www.nationalbaptist.com/Index.cfm?FuseAction=Page&PageID=1000082>]

## 1835

--- **TN**

Approximate birth year of Davidson County Representative **Thomas A. Sykes**, born in NC, parents unknown. [*Biographical Directory, TGA*]

--- **TN**

The Cherokee census of North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia lists 16,542 Cherokee and 1,592 slaves (not identified by race).

## 1836

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“Free Frank” McWorter becomes the first African American to found a town when he records the plat of New Philadelphia, Illinois.

[<http://www.newphiladelphiail.org/chronology.htm>]

June 15

Arkansas is admitted to the Union as a slave state. It is positioned to balance Michigan, which enters as a free state.

[<http://www.bjmjr.com/usa/seven.htm>]

## 1837

Mar. 4

Martin Van Buren, a Democrat, defeats Whig candidate William Henry Harrison to become the nation’s 8<sup>th</sup> President (1837-1841).

## 1838

Sept. 3

Frederick Douglass escapes from slavery in Baltimore.

[<http://www.afro.com/history/slavery/revolts.html>]

## 1839

July 2

Slaves, led by Joseph Cinqué, revolt against the crew of the slave ship *Amistad*. When they are captured by the U.S. Navy two months later, they are jailed in Connecticut, a state in which slavery is legal.

[<http://www.afro.com/history/slavery/revolts.html>]

## 1840

--- **TN**

Sarah Estell, a free black businesswoman, opens a successful ice cream parlor and catering business in Nashville, where she provides banquets for “firemen, church socials, and political parties.” [*Nashville Business Journal*, Nov. 30-Dec. 4, 1992]

## 1841

Mar. 4

William Henry Harrison is inaugurated the nation’s ninth President. He develops pneumonia during his inauguration and dies a month later.

Apr. 6

Although the Constitution does not provide for the Vice President to succeed to the Presidency in the event of the President’s death, John Tyler defies a power grab by the cabinet and has himself sworn in as President (1841-1845). [Winik]

--- **TN**

Approximate birth year of Tipton County Representative **John W. Boyd**, born in Georgia to Jackson and Martha Boyd. [*Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*]

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The U.S. Supreme Court upholds a lower court’s decision that the *Amistad* mutineers are the victims of kidnapping and thus within their rights to secure their freedom in any way possible. Through private donations, the 35 surviving Africans are able to secure passage back to Africa.

[<http://www.afro.com/history/slavery/revolts.html>]

---

Captured Africans on the slave ship *Creole*, traveling from Virginia to Louisiana, overpower the crew and sail the ship to the Bahamas, whose government grants them asylum and freedom.

[<http://www.afro.com/history/slavery/revolts.html>]

## 1842

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Joseph Jenkins Roberts becomes the first non-white governor of Liberia.

[<http://personal.denison.edu/~waite/liberia/history/acs.htm>]

## 1843

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Members and clergy of the Methodist Episcopal Church split from the church over its failure to pass a promised edict forbidding members to own slaves. The new organization is named the Wesleyan Methodist Church in America. [[http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr\\_slav2.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_slav2.htm)]

## 1844

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Although its rules are not as strict as some members would wish, from its 1784 founding in the United States, the Methodist Episcopal Church has opposed slavery. When a Georgia bishop becomes a slave owner by marriage, the church splits a second time over the slavery issue, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, becomes a separate entity. [[http://www.gcqh.org/Heritage\\_Landmarks/Mecsouth.htm](http://www.gcqh.org/Heritage_Landmarks/Mecsouth.htm)]

## 1845

Mar. 3

Florida is admitted to the Union as a slave state, paired with Iowa, which enters as a free state. [<http://www.bjmr.com/usa/seven.htm>]

Mar. 4 **TN**

Tennessean James K. Polk is inaugurated as the nation's 11<sup>th</sup> President (1845-1849).

May 3

Macon B. Allen from Massachusetts becomes the first African American lawyer admitted to the bar.

[[http://www.vmfq.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfq.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

May 8

The Baptist movement has maintained an uneasy peace by avoiding discussion of the topic of slavery. However, when an 1840 American Baptist Anti-Slavery Convention brings the issue into the open, the Mission Board is forced to take a stand. [[http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr\\_slav2.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_slav2.htm)] When the Board refuses to accept Georgia's nomination of a slave-owner to be a missionary, 293 Southern leaders representing 365,000 members, meet in Augusta, Georgia, and agree regretfully to withdraw; they form the Southern Baptist Convention, which eventually grows to be the largest Protestant denomination in the country.

[<http://www.baptisthistory.org/sbaptistbeginnings.htm>]

May 23

Frederick Douglass publishes his biography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

[[http://www.vmfq.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfq.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

Dec. 29

Texas (which has been an independent country since 1836) is annexed and admitted to the Union as a slave state, based on the terms of the Missouri Compromise. Wisconsin's admission as a free state in 1848 is seen as balance for Texas. [<http://www.bjmr.com/usa/seven.htm>] Mexico, which has never recognized Texas independence, declares war on the United States.

## 1846

--- **TN**

Approximate birth year of Hamilton County Representative **William C. Hodge**, born in North Carolina. [*Biographical Directory*]

Apr. 24

Mexican forces attack American troops near the Rio Grande, beginning the Mexican War. [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican-American\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican-American_War)]

May 13

The U.S. Congress declares war on Mexico. Since Texas is a slave state, Northerners and Whigs generally oppose the war, while Southerners and

Democrats tend to support it. The U.S. desire to annex California should be considered a major cause of the war. [Hunt]

--- The Wilmot Proviso **#5** is amended to a bill providing for negotiation of a settlement with Mexico. A challenge to pro-slavery groups, the Proviso bans slavery in any of the territory acquired in the Mexican war. Although the amended bill is passed by the House in 1846 and 1847, the Southern-dominated Senate blocks it. The effect of the debate over the Proviso is to intensify the conflict between the North and the South over slavery. The escalating controversy will lead to Southern secession.

## **1847**

July 26

The legislature of Liberia declares itself an independent state. Joseph Jenkins Roberts is elected its first president.

[<http://personal.denison.edu/~waite/liberia/history/acs.htm>] ]

## **1848**

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The Free Soil Movement is organized in the United States. Supporters of the Wilmot Proviso **#5**, its members are abolitionists antagonistic toward the extension of slavery into the territories. Fairly successful as a third party, it sends two Senators and 14 Representatives to the 31<sup>st</sup> Congress. Its membership includes many northern Whigs and Democrats who are opposed to slavery; by about 1854 most Free-Soilers have merged with the Republican party. [[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Free\\_Soil\\_Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Free_Soil_Party)]

Feb. 2

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends the Mexican War. Mexico must yield nearly half of its territory to the U.S. in exchange for \$15,000,000. That territory includes California and the territory of New Mexico, which includes the present-day Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Wyoming, and Colorado. (The 1853 Gadsden Purchase will add the lower portions of the present-day Arizona and New Mexico.) [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty\\_of\\_Guadalupe\\_Hidalgo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Guadalupe_Hidalgo)]

Congress begins the battle over slavery in the new territories.

May 10 **TN**

Birth of Fayette County Representative **Monroe W. Gooden**, probably near Somerville TN. [*Biographical Directory of the TN General Assembly*]

[<http://www.econlib.org/library/YPDBooks/Lalor/ILCy1087.html>]

Sept. 19 **TN**

Birth of Shelby County Representative **Greene E. Evans** in Fayette County TN. [*Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*]

## **1849**

--- **TN**

Birth year of Shelby County Representative **Thomas F. Cassels**, born in Ohio. His parents are believed to have been “free persons of color.”

[*Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*]

Mar. 5

Zachary Taylor, a hero of the Mexican War, is inaugurated the nation’s twelfth President.

Autumn

Knowing she will be sold after her owner’s death, Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery in Maryland. However, she will return to the South nineteen times, bringing out more than 300 slaves.

[[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

## **1850**

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As Congress debates the status of slavery in the territory to be acquired from Mexico, a number of proposals remain on the table: one is the

Wilmot Proviso **#5**, which would ban all slavery in that territory; another is a measure, sanctioned by President Zachary Taylor, to extend the Missouri compromise line to the Pacific. Senator Stephen A. Douglas is identified with “Popular Sovereignty,” which eventually emerges as part of the Compromise of 1850. This plan will permit territorial governments to make their own determinations about slavery. [Hunt]

--- **TN**  
June 3 **TN**

Approximate birth year of Shelby County Representative **Isaac F. Norris**. Delegates from nine Southern states meet in Nashville to discuss their concerns about Northern attitudes relating to slavery. The Tennessee General Assembly, opposed to disunion, refuses to send delegates, but individual counties send 101 delegates to the Nashville Convention (sometimes called the Southern Convention) – the largest group from any state participating. The delegates eschew the “fire-eaters” demands for secession but adopt resolutions “asserting the South’s constitutional rights in the territories and the rights and interests of Texas in the boundary dispute.” [“Nashville Convention.”] Although the Convention fails to unite the South, it calls attention to Southern grievances and influences the passage of the Compromise of 1850. [Goodstein]

July 4

Falling ill with gastroenteritis after a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, President Zachary Taylor becomes the second President to die in office.

July 10

Millard Fillmore is inaugurated the nation’s 13<sup>th</sup> President (1850-1853).

Sept. 9-20

President Fillmore signs the five bills making up the Compromise of 1850, the passage of which is orchestrated by Stephen Douglas. The plan will

- force Texas to relinquish about one-third of its territory in exchange for \$10,000,000 from the U.S. Government;
- organize New Mexico/Arizona and Utah under the rule of “popular sovereignty” -- each territory can choose its own response to slavery. Critics complain that it undermines the Missouri Compromise;
- admit California to the Union as a free state, even though it upsets the 15-15 balance of free and slave states;
- abolish the sale of slaves (although not the institution of slavery) in the District of Columbia; and
- enact a harsh new Fugitive Slave Law that penalizes law enforcement officials for failing to arrest anyone suspected of being a runaway slave, and that requires fines and jail terms for anyone providing food or shelter to runaway slaves.

[[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compromise\\_of\\_1850](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compromise_of_1850)]

Nov. **TN**

Although the Compromise of 1850 reduces the Southern passion for establishing regional unity against the North, fifty delegates from seven southern states meet for a second Nashville Convention and affirm the right to secede. [“Nashville Convention”]

**1851**

June 5

Harriet Beecher Stowe sells *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* to the *National Era* for a sum of \$300. Despite the paper’s small circulation, the story is widely read as copies pass from hand to hand. As the last of the 40 installments is printed (April 1852), the novel is published in book form. By 1857 it will have sold a half million copies. Slavery never recovers its legitimacy.

[<http://www.uwm.edu/Library/special/exhibits/clspg149.htm>]

## 1852

--- TN

Approximate birth year of Shelby County Representative **William A. Fields**. There is no information yet discovered about his parents or birthplace. [*Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*]

Nov. 21 TN

Birth date of Hamilton County Representative **Styles L. Hutchins**, born in Lawrenceville, Georgia. [*"Styles L. Hutchins."* *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History & Culture.*]

## 1853

Mar. 4

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Franklin Pierce is inaugurated the nation's 14<sup>th</sup> President (1853-1857). William Wells Brown publishes *Clotel*, the first novel by an African American. The book is published in London while Brown is still technically a slave. Five years later he will write *The Escape*, the first black play. [[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

Nov. TN

Nelson G. Merry, a former slave, becomes the first Tennessee African American to be ordained and placed over a black congregation when he is named pastor ("moderator") of the first Colored Baptist Mission on Pearl Street in Nashville, where he has preached since 1848.

[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/merry.htm>]

[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/FIRSTCB.HTM> ]

## 1854

May 30

The Kansas-Nebraska Act, introduced by Stephen Douglas (but condemned by Frederick Douglass and others in the anti-slavery movement) is passed by Congress. By permitting residents of Kansas and Nebraska to decide for themselves whether to allow slavery in their territories, the bill serves to repeal the 1820 Missouri Compromise (which permitted slavery north of latitude 36°30') and to open the Northern territory to slavery.

[[http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmfa.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

July 6

The first official Republican party meeting takes place in Jackson, Michigan, impelled by the feeling of betrayal by Northern and North-western states when the Kansas-Nebraska Act is approved by Congress. Loyal to the precepts of the Missouri Compromise, it attracts Free-Soilers and others opposed to slavery and becomes powerful nationally when John C. Fremont ("Free soil, free labor, free speech, free men, Fremont!") is nominated for President in 1856. Four years later Abraham Lincoln will become the first Republican elected to that office.

[<http://www.mcgon.net/History.htm>]

## 1855

Feb. 26 TN

Hume School, housing 12 teachers and serving all grades, opens in Nashville, one of the first Southern cities to institute a public school system. (Mobile, Alabama, opened the Barton Academy as a public school in 1836 [<http://www.southalabama.edu/general-info.html>]; the North Carolina legislature enacted its first statewide public school law in 1839.) Blacks, excluded from public schools in Nashville and Memphis, must organize their own schools or teach basic skills in churches and Sabbath schools. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

## 1856

Dec. TN

A race riot takes place in Nashville – white workers attack free and semi-independent (self-hired) blacks, many of whom are well-educated and prosperous, tightening the controls on local African American citizens and forcing free black schools to close until after the city's occupation by Union forces in February 1862. [[http://www.aaregistry.com/african\\_american\\_history/2046/James\\_Napier\\_businessman\\_and\\_more](http://www.aaregistry.com/african_american_history/2046/James_Napier_businessman_and_more)]  
[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

--- TN

African American education in Memphis is likewise shut down when local whites forbid black residents to learn to read.  
[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

## 1857

Mar. 4  
March

James Buchanan is inaugurated the nation's 15<sup>th</sup> President (1857-1861). The Supreme Court rules, in *Dred Scott v Sanford*, that an African American can not be a citizen of the United States and therefore has no right to sue or to claim other rights of citizenship. The decision is a focal point of the Lincoln-Douglas debates in the Illinois Senate campaign of 1858. Although Lincoln loses the election, his "house divided" speech and the exposure he receives in the debates catapult him into national prominence. [<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2932.html>]

Oct. 19

The Lecompton Constitutional Convention meets in Lecompton, capital city of the Kansas Territory, to draft a state constitution. Pro-slave delegates push through a constitution protecting slavery. **#6**

December

Kansas voters, in an election marked by violence and fraud, ratify the Lecompton constitution **#6**, as free-staters stay away from the polls in protest. News reports of the election stir up the North against the slave system, and many northern Democrats break with the party, voting against President Buchanan's recommendation to admit Kansas as a slave state.

## 1858

June 26 TN

Birth of Haywood County Representative **Samuel A. McElwee**, born into slavery in Madison County. [*Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*]

August

Kansas voters, given an opportunity to reconsider the Lecompton Constitution, decisively reject it. **#6**

## 1859

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The *Clothilde*, the last ship to carry slaves to the United States, arrives in Mobile Bay, Alabama, with an illegal shipment of slaves. Its captain, Tim Meaher, has made a bet that he can sneak in a shipload of slaves under cover of darkness. [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html>]  
[<http://www.mobilerotary.org/HistoryMobile.htm>]

--- TN

A group of African Americans in Memphis establishes the Collins Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, the first independent black congregation that is not organized under the patronage and control of a white church.  
[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

Feb. 8 TN

Probable birth date of **Jesse M.H. Graham** in Clarksville TN.

July 18 **TN** Birth of Fayette County Representative **David F. Rivers**, born in Montgomery, Alabama, to Edmonia Rivers, a free woman of color, and an unknown father. [*Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*]

Oct. 16 John Brown and his followers (five of the 13 are African American) attack Harper's Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), in an attempt to free and arm the local slaves. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

## **1860**

--- **TN** Slaves now constitute one-fourth of Tennessee's population [*"Slavery." Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.*] and about 15% of the national population. [1860 Census]

--- Approximately 300,000 free blacks are living in Southern states, primarily in Virginia, Kentucky, and South Carolina. [Foner]

--- **TN** Fewer than 20% of Tennessee families own (or can afford to own) slaves. Slave owners in the state hold a median of 15.1 slaves. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

--- In this year "only five Northern states, all with tiny black populations, [allow] black men to vote on the same terms as white." [Foner]

May 16 Abraham Lincoln receives the Republican party's nomination for President on the third ballot.

Dec. 20 In a convention called by John C. Calhoun to consider secession, South Carolina's representative delegates vote unanimously to secede from the Union. [<http://www.csawardept.com/documents/secession/SC/>]

## **1861**

Jan. 29 Kansas is admitted to the Union as a free state.

Feb 18 Jefferson Davis is inaugurated President of the Confederacy in Montgomery, Alabama.

Mar. 4 Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated President, with Hannibal Hamlin as his Vice President.

Mar. 11 The Confederate States of America – at this time consisting of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas – adopts a Constitution. [<http://www.pinzler.com/ushistory/timeline6.html>]

Apr. 12 Confederate batteries fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina, in the first engagement of the Civil War.

June 8 **TN** The Tennessee General Assembly votes to secede from the Union, despite the fact that many Tennesseans – possibly a majority – are opposed to secession. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

June 28 **TN** The Tennessee General Assembly authorizes a draft of free black men into the Confederate army. Most free black men will manage to evade both the Confederate draft and the local sheriffs compelled to enforce it. [<http://www.africanamericans.com/MilitaryChronology1.htm>] [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

## **1862**

Feb. 21 Nathaniel Gordon, a slave trader from Maine, is hanged in New York City for piracy. *Harpers Weekly* (March 8) comments, "For forty years the slave-trade has been pronounced piracy by law, and to engage in it has been a capital offense. But the sympathy of the Government and its officials has been so often on the side of the criminal, and it seemed so absurd to hang a man for doing at sea that which, in half the Union, is

done daily without censure on land, that no one has ever been punished under the Act. The Administration of Mr. Lincoln has turned over a new leaf in this respect. Henceforth the slave-trade will be abandoned to the British and their friends.” [\[http://blackhistory.harpweek.com/7Illustrations/Slavery/ExecutionOfSlavetrader.htm\]](http://blackhistory.harpweek.com/7Illustrations/Slavery/ExecutionOfSlavetrader.htm)

**Feb. 23 TN** The Confederate flag is lowered from the Tennessee Capitol as Nashville surrenders to Union forces.

[\[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm\]](http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm)

**March TN** Tennessee Senator Andrew Johnson is appointed military governor and arrives in Nashville to head the occupation forces.

[\[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm\]](http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm)

**Apr. 16** Slavery is abolished in the District of Columbia.

[\[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html\]](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html)

**June 6 TN** Memphis surrenders to Union forces.

[\[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm\]](http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm)

**July 2 TN** The Morrill Act **#7** allocates federal land or its monetary value to various states for the teaching of “agricultural and mechanical” subjects and military training to students. After the Civil War Tennessee will designate East Tennessee University (renamed the University of Tennessee in 1879) as a land-grant institution. [\[http://web.utk.edu/~mklein/\]](http://web.utk.edu/~mklein/)

**July 17** Congress passes two acts that change the status of slaves and anticipate the Emancipation Proclamation.

- The Second Confiscation Act frees the slaves of owners who are actively engaged in rebellion and authorizes military commanders to appropriate such slaves as military personnel “in any capacity to suppress the rebellion.”
- The Militia Act authorizes the employment of “persons of African descent” in “any military or naval service for which they may be found competent,” and grants freedom to those slaves and their families. In other words, Lincoln can now use black soldiers in the Union Army. [\[http://www.history.umd.edu/Freedmen/chronol.htm\]](http://www.history.umd.edu/Freedmen/chronol.htm) By 1865 a reported 180,000 African Americans will have served in the U.S. Army. [\[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)

**Sept. 23** Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation **#8** is published.

**Dec. 7 TN** Work on Fort Negley, the largest Union fort west of Washington, D.C., is completed. The Fort is constructed over a three-month period by Union soldiers and hundreds of black workers – male and female, free and slave – who have been conscripted into service [\[http://www.bonps.org/neg.htm\]](http://www.bonps.org/neg.htm) in what is probably the first large-scale use of contraband labor in Tennessee during the war. [\[Hunt\]](#)

## **1863**

**Jan. 1** President Abraham Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation **#8**. [\[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)

**Mar. 3** The Conscription Act/Enrollment Act is passed, requiring enrollment of all able-bodied men in the Union Army, although they can purchase their exemption by paying \$300 [\[http://www.pinzler.com/ushistory/timeline6.html\]](http://www.pinzler.com/ushistory/timeline6.html) or by sending a substitute. Only 46,347 of the 776,892 men receiving draft notices will actually wear a uniform. [\[Lapham\]](#)

- June 20 West Virginia is admitted as the 35<sup>th</sup> state. Its constitution mandates the gradual emancipation of slaves.
- July 11-13 A week after the Battle of Gettysburg, opposition to the draft and its “rich man’s exemptions” sparks a riot in New York City.  
[[http://www.sparknotes.com/biography/lincoln/terms/term\\_8.html](http://www.sparknotes.com/biography/lincoln/terms/term_8.html)]
- July 18 The 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteers, an all-black unit, attack Fort Wagner in Charleston, South Carolina. Nearly half the regiment are killed, wounded, or captured. Sgt. William H. Carney becomes the first African American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for courage under fire. [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html>]
- Sept. 10 **TN** The Bureau of U.S. Colored Troops opens in Nashville. More than 20,000 of the 180,000 USCT will be from Tennessee, and over 5,000 casualties will occur in the state. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]  
George Luther Stearns, Assistant Adjutant General for the Recruitment of Colored Troops, is put in charge of USCT recruiting in Tennessee. A fervent abolitionist, Stearns was John Brown’s largest financial backer and even owned the rifles Brown used at Harper’s Ferry. He recruited the Union’s first African American regiment, the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts  
[<http://doi.contentdirections.com/mr/greenwood.jsp?doi=10.1336/0313298637>]  
and will later be a leader in establishing the Freedmen’s Bureau.
- Nov. 19 Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address.
- Dec. 2 The statue “Freedom” is placed on top of the U.S. Capitol. Sculptor Philip Reid was a slave in a Maryland foundry when the statue was cast.  
[[http://www.aaregistry.com/african\\_american\\_history/2353/Slave\\_finishes\\_White\\_House\\_Dome](http://www.aaregistry.com/african_american_history/2353/Slave_finishes_White_House_Dome)]
- Dec. 8 President Lincoln announces the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction **#9**, pardoning Confederates who pledge loyalty to the Union and agree to accept emancipation. A state can begin the process of rejoining the Union as soon as 10% of a Confederate state’s voters make the pledge. This fairly loose oath, pledging Union loyalty from the moment the oath is taken, angers black leaders, Southern Unionists, and Congressional Republicans. Lincoln’s motive seems more a strategy to disrupt the Confederacy than actually to implement Reconstruction. [[Hunt](#)]

## **1864**

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- The black Baptists of the West and South organize the Northwestern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. In 1866 they will merge with the American Baptist Convention to form the Consolidated Baptist Convention, which will support the efforts of black Baptists in several Southern states to form their own conventions. [<http://www.nationalbaptist.com/Index.cfm?FuseAction=Page&PageID=1000082>]
- January Radical Republicans are hostile to Lincoln’s policies, fearing that they do not provide sufficient protection for ex-slaves, that the 10% amnesty plan is not strict enough, and that Southern states should demonstrate more significant efforts to eradicate the slave system before being allowed back into the Union. Consequently, Congress refuses to recognize the governments of Southern states, or to seat their elected representatives. Instead, legislators begin to work on their own Reconstruction plan, which will emerge in July as the Wade-Davis Bill **#10**.

	<a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html">[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html]</a> <a href="http://www.blackhistory.harpreweek.com/4Reconstruction/ReconTimeline.htm">[http://www.blackhistory.harpreweek.com/4Reconstruction/ReconTimeline.htm]</a> Congress now understands the Confederacy to be the face of a deeply rooted cultural system antagonistic to the principles of a “free labor” society. Many fear that returning home rule to such a system amounts to accepting secession state by state and opening the door for such malicious local legislation as the Black Codes that eventually emerge. <a href="#">[Hunt]</a>
Mar. 1	Rebecca Lee Crumpler becomes the first black woman to receive a medical degree, graduating from the New England Female Medical College. Following the Civil War she will work with the Freedmen’s Bureau providing medical assistance to former slaves. Her <i>Book of Medical Discourses</i> , published in 1883, is one of the earliest medical publications by any African American. <a href="http://www.bumc.bu.edu/www/busm/aa/distinguished_figures.htm">[http://www.bumc.bu.edu/www/busm/aa/distinguished_figures.htm]</a>
March <b>TN</b>	Military Governor Andrew Johnson, speaking at the dedication of the Northwestern Military Railroad at Johnsonville, urges Unionists to “go to the ballot box ” and vote slavery out of the state. The railroad, strategic to the success of the Union army’s attack on Atlanta, has been built by thousands of black contraband workers and U.S. Colored Troops. <a href="http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm">[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm]</a>
June 15	Congress passes a bill authorizing equal pay, equipment, arms, and health care for African American troops in the Union Army. <a href="http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html">[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html]</a>
July	Congress passes the <u>Wade-Davis Bill</u> <b>#10</b> , which requires a majority vote of state voters to gain readmission to the Union, restricts many former Confederates from political participation in Reconstruction, and demands that blacks receive not only their freedom but also equality before the law; Lincoln’s July 4 pocket veto of the bill kills it. <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html">[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html]</a>
Sept. 2	Sherman takes Atlanta.
Autumn <b>TN</b>	Tennessee’s black leaders organize a torchlight parade to honor Military Governor Andrew Johnson and to petition for the application of the Emancipation Proclamation to Tennessee. <a href="http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm">[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm]</a>
Oct. 4	The National Colored Men’s Convention meets in Syracuse, New York, chaired by Frederick Douglass. <a href="http://www.undergroundrr.com/foundation/abolotionist.htm">[http://www.undergroundrr.com/foundation/abolotionist.htm]</a>
Oct. 4	Beginning of the <i>New Orleans Tribune</i> , probably the first African American daily newspaper. <a href="http://www.aaregistry.com/african_american_history/1219/The_New_Orleans_Tribune_founded">[http://www.aaregistry.com/african_american_history/1219/The_New_Orleans_Tribune_founded]</a>
Nov. 8	President Abraham Lincoln is re-elected, defeating Democratic candidate George McClellan. Andrew Johnson becomes Vice President, but Lincoln and Johnson barely know each other.
Dec. 22	Sherman occupies Savannah, completing his march to the sea.

## 1865

- By this point about 180,000 African American men (over 20% of the adult male black population between 20 and 45) have served in the Union Army, and many more in the Navy.  
[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)]
- African-American soldiers comprise 10% of the entire Union Army. These troops suffer extremely high losses: approximately one-third of all African-Americans enrolled in the military will lose their lives in the Civil War. [<http://americancivilwar.com/colored/histofcoloredtroops.html>]
- **TN** Four Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company Bank branches will operate in Tennessee (in Chattanooga, Columbia, Memphis, and Nashville) between 1865 and 1874. A significant resource for the black community, the bank will fail in 1874 following the economic depression of the 1870s, largely through mismanagement and fraud by the white managers of an important Washington, D.C. branch.  
[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- Jan. **TN** William Scott begins publication of *The Colored Tennessean*, the first black newspaper in Nashville. [<http://www.tngenweb.org/tncolor/ads.htm>]
- Jan. 2 **TN** John Mercer Langston, founder and dean of the Howard University Law School, speaks at Nashville's Second Annual Emancipation Day celebration. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- Jan. **TN** The Tennessee General Assembly amends the state constitution to prohibit slavery; voters will ratify the amendment in March.  
[[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tennessee\\_Constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tennessee_Constitution) ]
- Jan. 9 **TN** Fisk Free Colored School opens in the buildings of a former U. S. Army hospital. Tennessee Gov. W. G. "Parson" Brownlow advises students to be "mild and temperate" in their behavior toward white people, and warns teachers to be "exceedingly prudent and cautious." The school will number 600 students by February and will continue to expand for some time. [<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index/html>]
- Jan. 16 Under Union Gen. Sherman's Field Order No. 15 **#11**, 40-acre plots of land are set aside in coastal SC, GA, and FL for the exclusive use of freed blacks, who can claim "possessory title" with option to purchase.  
[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)]  
Sherman's primary motive is to get rid of the multitudes of refugees following his army – they are not only impeding his military operations, but they are also consuming rations he needs for his troops. [[Hunt](#)]
- Jan. 31 U.S. Congress approves the abolition of slavery and involuntary servitude, sending the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment **#12** to the states for ratification.  
[<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]
- Feb. 1 J.S. Rock, who will be the first black lawyer to practice in the Supreme Court, is admitted to the Supreme Court bar.  
[[http://members.tripod.com/ntgen/bw/josln\\_ntble.html](http://members.tripod.com/ntgen/bw/josln_ntble.html)]
- Feb. 1 General William T. Sherman's army turns north toward the Carolinas and Virginia. [<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]

- Feb. 8 Martin Robinson Delany, a writer, publisher, and physician, becomes the first African American to receive a regular army commission when President Abraham Lincoln promotes him to the rank of major in the U. S. Army. [<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USASdelaney.htm>]
- Mar. 3 U.S. Congress establishes the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (to be known as the Freedmen's Bureau); its function is to ease the transition from slavery, offering shelter, medical care, legal services, and educational facilities to former slaves. Originally authorized to function for only one year, the bureau will continue in operation until 1868. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)] [<http://freedmensbureau.com>]
- Mar. 4 **TN** Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated for a second term, with Tennessean Andrew Johnson as Vice President. Lincoln pledges "malice toward none and charity for all." [<http://www.pinzler.com/ushistory/timeline6.html>]
- Mar. 13 **TN** The Confederate States Congress authorizes the recruitment of black soldiers – slaves – to serve in the Confederate Army; however, this uncharacteristic move by the Confederate Congress comes too late to prepare any black troops for battle. Some scholars believe that as many as 65,000 African Americans may have served the Confederate Army in some fashion: the Confederacy impressed and leased slaves extensively to work on fortifications and other projects; individual slaves sometimes accompanied their masters (usually officers) into war as personal servants; and a few (including Tennessee legislator **Sampson W. Keeble**) actually fought, generally to protect their own farms or neighborhoods. [<http://members.aol.com/neoconfeds/trclark.htm>] [<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]
- Mar. 26 **TN** Tennessee voters ratify the new state constitution, which includes an anti-slavery amendment. [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tennessee\\_Constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tennessee_Constitution)]
- Apr. 5 **TN** The Tennessee General Assembly ratifies the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment. **#12** [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- Apr. 9 Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders at Appomattox Court House, VA. President Lincoln and General Grant give USCT regiments the privilege of being the first troops to occupy the Confederate capital at Richmond. [<http://historiccamdencounty.com/ccnews57.shtml> ]
- Apr. 11 In the last speech he will deliver, Pres. Lincoln makes a rare public endorsement of limited voting rights for black voters. [<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]
- Apr. 14 **TN** Lincoln is assassinated. Vice President Andrew Johnson, a Tennessee Democrat, becomes President (1865-1869).
- Apr. 26 Confederate General Joe Johnston meets with General William T. Sherman in North Carolina to negotiate his surrender. Although CSA President Jefferson Davis is firmly set against surrender, and many commanders (including Forrest in Alabama and Kirby-Smith in Texas) still know nothing of these events, the Confederacy's loss of both Lee's and Johnston's armies means that the Civil War has effectively ended.

May 29 <b>TN</b>	<p>Pres. Johnson issues his <u>Amnesty Proclamation</u> <b>#13</b>; Johnson's Reconstruction strategy disenfranchises large land-owners (anyone with taxable property over \$20,000) and former Confederate military leaders until their individual petitions for amnesty are approved; the federal government also now requires all states to ratify the <u>13<sup>th</sup> Amendment</u> <b>#12</b>; only 10% of the voting population of any Southern state must take a loyalty oath in order for the state to be readmitted to the Union <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html">[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html]</a></p> <p>Johnson also intends that each state convention declare secession null and void and repudiate the debt each Confederate state has acquired during the war. Unfortunately, the state conventions and leadership will openly defy or circumvent him, thus cutting off their best ally in Washington, since Johnson stands between the ex-Confederate states and the congressional Republicans. As a Democrat in a Republican administration that has no respect for him, he is ineffectual against the political realities of 1865-66, even though he has proved himself an anti-secessionist and a convert to the cause of emancipation in Tennessee. <a href="#">[Hunt]</a></p>
June	<p>Southern white men excluded from the general amnesty may begin their appeals for individual pardons on this date. <a href="http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html">[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html]</a></p>
June 19	<p>"Juneteenth," the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery – word of Emancipation finally reaches slaves in isolated areas of Texas. <a href="http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm">[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm]</a></p>
August	<p>Southern states open Constitutional Conventions to renounce secession, disavow the Southern debt, &amp; ratify the <u>13<sup>th</sup> Amendment</u> <b>#12</b>. <a href="http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html">[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html]</a></p>
Aug. <b>TN</b>	<p>The first State Colored Men's Convention meets at St. John's African Methodist Episcopal Church in Nashville. Delegates call for the final ratification of the <u>13<sup>th</sup> Amendment</u> <b>#12</b>, as well as full citizenship and black suffrage. There is no apposite response from the Tennessee General Assembly. <a href="http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm">[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm]</a></p>
Aug. <b>TN</b>	<p>Night riders expand their terrorist activities throughout Tennessee, causing Major General George H. Thomas to increase the Union presence in the state. <a href="http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm">[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm]</a></p>
September	<p>President Johnson demonstrates a greater tendency to align himself with white Southern land owners, declaring "white men alone must manage the South." He issues a controversial order to return appropriated land to its former owners, even lands granted to freedmen by Sherman's January 16 <u>Field Order No. 15</u> <b>#11</b>. Because many freedmen have already settled in and begun farming the land, some are stubbornly resistant to leaving. <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html">[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html]</a></p>
October	<p>Southern states put local, state, and congressional elections in process, anticipating full restoration to the Union as soon as they comply with Johnson's order <a href="http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html">[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html]</a></p>
Nov. 25	<p>Issuance of Mississippi's first "<u>Black Codes</u>." <b>#14</b> Other states also pass laws imposing restrictions on black citizens: freedmen can work only as field hands; unemployed black men can be auctioned to planters as laborers; black children can be taken from their families and made to</p>

work; blacks refusing to sign labor contracts can be penalized; strict laws control vagrancy, apprenticeship, and public transportation. In addition, blacks are forbidden to testify against whites in court, and they cannot serve on juries, bear arms, or hold large meetings.

[<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/ashp/toer/toer-timeline.html>]

[<http://afroamhistory.about.com/library/weekly/aa121900a.htm>]

December Ulysses S. Grant makes a victory tour of an unexpectedly friendly South and recommends lenient Reconstruction policies.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)]

Dec. 4 U.S. Senate and House form a Joint Committee on Reconstruction; More than sixty newly-elected Senators & Representatives from Southern states (all but Mississippi have consented to the presidential requirements for readmission to the Union) are denied their seats in the 39<sup>th</sup> Congress when the Clerk refuses to include their names in the roll call.

[<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)]

Dec. 6 The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment **#12**, abolishing slavery, is ratified.

[<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]

Winter Southern cities begin to experience an influx of freedmen that will double the black population of the South's ten largest cities within five years.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)]

## **1866**

--- **TN**

Nashville Normal and Theological Institute opens under the guidance of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. (Its predecessor, the "Baptist College," originally a seminary for African American preachers, began in a private home in 1864.) The school is renamed Roger Williams University in 1883. Its major buildings will be destroyed by fires of suspicious origin in 1905. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/roger.htm>] [*"Roger Williams University." Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.*]

Jan. 1 By the beginning of 1866 President Johnson has issued individual pardons to more than 7,000 Southern men denied amnesty under the \$20,000 property clause. [<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]

Feb. 2 An African American delegation led by Frederick Douglass meets with President Johnson to advocate black suffrage. Johnson vows to support the interests of Southern whites and says he will oppose black voting rights. [<http://www.history.rochester.edu/class/douglass/part5.html>]

Feb. 19 Pres. Johnson vetoes the bill renewing the Freedmen's Bureau. [<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]

Mar. 27 Pres. Johnson vetoes the Civil Rights Act of 1866 **#15**. The Civil Rights Bill is designed to put an end to the Black Codes, which will survive in spite of their efforts and will create a deliberately unequal application of civil law. [<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]

Apr. 9 By overwhelming majorities, both houses of Congress overturn Johnson's vetoes of both the Freedmen's Bureau bill and the Civil Rights Act **#15** (which prohibits state governments from discrimination on the basis of race). These are the first major bills to supersede a Presidential veto; the rift between Congress and the President deepens. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)]

- Apr. 16 Virginia Freedmen parading to celebrate the Civil Rights Act #15 are attacked by whites; five people die in the ensuing race riot.  
[<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]
- May 1-3 **TN** A race riot in Memphis results in 48 deaths, five rapes, many injuries, and the destruction of 90 black homes, 12 schools, & four churches.  
[<http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar/themes/reconstruction.html>]
- May 26 **TN** The Tennessee General Assembly passes legislation giving persons of color the right to make contracts, to sue, to inherit property, and to have equal benefits with whites under the laws and regarding protection of life and property. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- June **TN** The Ku Klux Klan is founded in Pulaski, TN, by a group of Confederate veterans. [<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]
- June 13 Congress approves the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment #16 and sends it to the states for ratification. The moderate Republican response to the Black Codes and to Johnson's failure to make self-Reconstruction work, it becomes the core of moderate Congressional Reconstruction. It characterizes citizenship as the entitlement of all people born or naturalized in the United States and increases federal power over the states to protect individual rights, while the operational, day-to-day affairs of the states are left in their own hands. Unpopular with the Congressional Radicals, this amendment will require more than two years to be ratified by the states.  
[<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]  
[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)]
- July Congress again overrides a Presidential veto to pass the supplemental Freedmen's Bureau Bill.  
[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)]
- July 2 **TN** Governor ("Parson") Brownlow, a slave-owner but also a dedicated Unionist, moves to return Tennessee to the Union. [*Tennessee Blue Book*]
- July 19 **TN** Tennessee, recognizing that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment #16 gives the states broader autonomy to manage Constitutional issues than they expected, becomes the third state – and the first former Confederate state – to ratify the amendment. [<http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar/themes/reconstruction/html>]
- July 24 **TN** Tennessee is the first former Confederate state readmitted to the Union.  
[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)]
- July 30 A mob of whites attacks a black suffrage meeting in New Orleans; 38 die, 150 are injured.  
[<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]
- August President Johnson undertakes a disastrous speaking tour of the Northern states, accompanied by Ulysses S. Grant; Johnson's undignified and spiteful responses to the hostile crowds cost him the support of many Northerners, as well as the respect of Grant.  
[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline.html)]
- Aug. 6 **TN** The second Tennessee State Colored Men's Convention meets in Nashville to advocate black suffrage and to organize demonstrations at the General Assembly. Leaders of the movement include **Sampson W. Keeble**, Nelson G. Merry, Samuel and Peter Lowery, and others.  
[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

November      Republicans take more than a 2/3 majority in Congressional elections; they are now guaranteed to override any Presidential vetoes in the coming legislative session.

[<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]

Dec. 6      President Johnson announces to Congress that the Union has been restored. [<http://www.nvcc.edu/home/nvsageh/Hist122/topics/recon.html>]  
--- **TN**      Most of the 356,000 acres confiscated from white Confederate loyalists in Tennessee are returned after 1866. Most former slaves are no more than gang laborers or, at best, share-croppers, working white farms for shares of produce or extremely low wages. Only about 400 black Tennessee farmers own their own land by the end of this year. In Wilson County, for example, blacks own only 30 of the 10,997 acres of farmland.

[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

## **1867**

Jan. 8      Overriding President Johnson's veto, Congress grants the black citizens of the District of Columbia the right to vote.

[<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html>]

Feb. 25 **TN**      The Tennessee General Assembly grants African Americans the right to vote and to hold political office; Governor Brownlow signs the bill into law the following day. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

Mar. **TN**      Tennessee's African American leaders hold their first political meetings to organize the black vote. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]  
By the end of 1867 around 40,000 African American men will have registered to vote. [<http://jbs.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/31/1/3>]

Mar. **TN**      The Tennessee General Assembly passes an act to reorganize public schools in the state, with provisions for black and white children to be taught in separate schools. The act reestablishes the office of state superintendent of education, and specifies funding and county supervision of the system. [*"Elementary and Secondary Education." Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.*]

Mar. 2 **TN**      Beginning of "Congressional Reconstruction" – Congress, challenging the ex-Confederate states, Tennessee excepted, who have refused to ratify the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, passes four Military Reconstruction Acts dividing the South into five military districts – existing state and local governments are declared provisional and under authority of military commanders until they meet and adopt new state constitutions, ratify the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment #16, and permit black adult males to participate in the process for the first time. [<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>] [Hunt]

Mar. 2      Howard University is officially incorporated by Congress. Named for Major General Oliver O. Howard, Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, it is originally conceived as a theological seminary for freedmen, then incorporated as a liberal arts college, primarily for the training of black teachers and preachers, but open to men and women of all races. It is the third university established in Washington, D. C., after Georgetown University (1789) and George Washington University (1821).

[<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index.html>]

Mar. 23	<p>The <u>Second Reconstruction Act #17</u> (also passed over Johnson's veto) instructs military commanders to register voters and call for constitutional conventions, barring from participation anyone in office prior to the war who "gave aid or support to the rebellion."  <a href="http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html">[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html]</a></p>
April <u>TN</u>	<p>Formal political restructuring of the Ku Klux Klan in Nashville, to oppose black equality and Republican leadership. It lists its purposes as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To protect the weak, the innocent, &amp; the defenseless from the indignities, wrongs &amp; outrages of the lawless, the violent &amp; the brutal;</li> <li>• to relieve the injured &amp; oppressed;</li> <li>• to succor the suffering &amp; unfortunate, &amp; especially the widows &amp; orphans of the Confederate soldiers.</li> <li>• Second: To protect &amp; defend the Constitution of the United States</li> <li>• Third: To aid &amp; assist in the execution of all constitutional laws, &amp; to protect the people from unlawful seizure, &amp; from trial except by their peers in conformity with the laws of the land.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.toptags.com/aama/docs/kkk.htm">[http://www.toptags.com/aama/docs/kkk.htm]</a></p>
May <u>TN</u>	<p>Induction of <u>Nathan Bedford Forrest #18</u> into the KKK and his subsequent election as Grand Wizard of the Klan.  <a href="http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html">[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html]</a></p>
June <u>TN</u>	<p>The KKK holds its first anniversary parade in Pulaski, Tennessee.  <a href="http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html">[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html]</a></p>
Aug. <u>TN</u>	<p>Tennessee holds the South's first statewide elections to include black voters, electing Republicans in nearly all positions – governor, congressional seats, and most state legislative posts.  <a href="http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html">[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html]</a></p>
August	<p>President Johnson attempts unsuccessfully to fire Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, triggering a deeper conflict with Congress and causing a final breach with Ulysses S. Grant.  <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html">[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html]</a></p>
Aug. 22 <u>TN</u>	<p>Fisk University is founded – the first black college in Tennessee. [Note: there will be no African American students at Vanderbilt University until Joseph A. Johnson is admitted to the Divinity School in 1953.]</p>
Sept. <u>TN</u>	<p>Black Nashvillians vote for the first time in city elections, electing two black councilmen; one of the two is not seated, and a white councilman is appointed to the seat. <a href="http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm">[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm]</a></p>
Sept. <u>TN</u>	<p>Central Tennessee College is chartered in Nashville. Its roots are in a school for freedmen, sponsored by northern Methodist Episcopal missionaries, which opened in the last year of the Civil War. In 1876 Meharry Medical School will become part of Central Tennessee College. In the 1880s the school will add the departments of law, industrial art, dentistry, and pharmacy. In 1900 the school will change its name to Walden University. Meharry will become a separate institution in 1915.  <a href="http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/walden.htm">[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/walden.htm]</a></p>
October	<p>Voter registration is completed in the ten Southern states subject to the Reconstruction Acts.  <a href="http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html">[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html]</a></p>

- November Diminishing Republican strength in the Northern states persuades the party to get the South on board before the next Presidential election. The party platform is structured so as to include equality for African Americans. [<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]
- Dec. **TN** First reports of Ku Klux Klan night-riding surface in middle Tennessee. [<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]
- Dec. 10 **TN** Tennessee Manual Labor University, modeled after Tolbert Fanning's Franklin College, is established on the Murfreesboro Road near Nashville by leaders of the Colored Agricultural and Mechanical Association. Its annual fair each fall serves to build a strong voting base among area freedmen and brings to Nashville such nationally important black political leaders as Frederick Douglass and John Mercer Langston. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/Keebles.htm>]

## **1868**

- Every legislator pictured in a photograph of the 1868 Louisiana State Legislature is black. [[http://teachpol.tcnj.edu/amer\\_pol\\_hist/fi/000000d7.htm](http://teachpol.tcnj.edu/amer_pol_hist/fi/000000d7.htm)]
- Jan.-Feb. Southern lawmakers, both black and white, begin to work together in the constitutional conventions, the first political meetings in U.S. history to include significant numbers of black men. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]
- April Hampton Normal & Agricultural Institute opens in Hampton, Virginia. Like Fisk, Hampton is supported by the American Missionary Association and serves as a major training ground for thousands of African American teachers. [<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index/html>]
- May 16 Andrew Johnson is the first President to be impeached by a house of Congress; he avoids conviction and retains his office after being acquitted in the Senate by a single vote on May 26.
- May 20 James J. Harris and P. B. S. Pinchback are the first African American delegates to a Republican National Convention. They support the nomination of U. S. Grant for President. Grant is nominated unopposed on the first ballot. [<http://chnm.gmu.edu/courses/122/recon/chron.html>]
- June 13 Oscar J. Dunn, a former slave, is elected lieutenant governor of Louisiana. [[http://www.brainyhistory.com/events/1868/july\\_13\\_1868\\_57113.html](http://www.brainyhistory.com/events/1868/july_13_1868_57113.html)]
- June 22 Arkansas is the 2<sup>nd</sup> state readmitted to the Union, 2 years after Tennessee. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]
- June 25 Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, and South Carolina rejoin the Union. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]
- July 4 **TN** Ku Klux Klan members make a public show of their organization's strength with parades and confrontations throughout Tennessee. [<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]
- July 9 Rev. Francis L. Cardozo (1837-1903) is elected Secretary of State in South Carolina, the first black cabinet member. In 1865 Cardozo, who was educated in Scotland and New England, founded the Avery Institute of Charleston, the first secondary school for black children. [[http://www.aaregistry.com/african\\_american\\_history/1643/Politician\\_minister\\_and\\_educator\\_Francis\\_Cardozo](http://www.aaregistry.com/african_american_history/1643/Politician_minister_and_educator_Francis_Cardozo)]
- July 14 Alabama is readmitted to the Union. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

- July 27 **TN** Governor Brownlow calls the TN Legislature into special session to demand that any further Ku Klux Klan activity be punished with death. [\[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html\]](http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html)
- July 28 **TN** The Fourteenth Amendment **#16** is finally ratified by enough states to become law. [Tennessee, July 1866, was the third state to ratify.]
- Aug. 28 **TN** Nathan Bedford Forrest **#18**, who claims 40,000 KKK members in Tennessee and a total of 550,000 that he can mobilize within a matter of days, insists the Klan is not motivated by racial hatred but threatens only “radicals” – carpetbaggers, spies, and “scalawags.” [\[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html\]](http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html)
- September The Georgia State Legislature expels its newly elected black legislators. The *Atlanta Constitution* supports the move, saying, “The Negro is unfit to rule the State.” President Grant immediately imposes military rule on the state, but it will be a full year before the legislators are readmitted. [\[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)
- Sept. **TN** **Greene E Evans** is admitted to Fisk University, where he pays his way by teaching, hauling gravel, and laying sod. [Marsh, J. B. T. *The Story of the Jubilee Singers; With Their Songs*. Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co., 1880.]
- Sept. **TN** Five African Americans are elected to the Nashville city council. [\[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm\]](http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm)
- Sept. 10 **TN** Tennessee enacts an “anti-Klan” law with penalties for “prowling” by night, in or out of disguise, “for the purpose of disturbing the peace, or alarming the peaceable citizens”; for advising resistance to the law; or for threatening or intimidating a voter. Tennessee’s new militia law authorizes the governor to send the state guard into any county where at least 10 “Union men” pledge that the law cannot be enforced or citizens protected without military assistance. [\[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html\]](http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html)
- Sept. 11 **TN** President Johnson meets with a group of TN legislators, who assure him that the new militia law will be used only in extreme circumstances, or when federal troops are unavailable. [\[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html\]](http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html)
- Sept. 16 **TN** Governor Brownlow issues a call for militia companies to form throughout the state and assemble in Nashville. [\[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html\]](http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html)
- Sept. 28 The Opelousas Massacre in Louisiana results in the death of 200-300 blacks at the hands of violent whites, many of them Confederate veterans and prominent citizens. [\[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html\]](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html) [\[http://www.aaregistry.com/african\\_american\\_history/1173/Massacre\\_in\\_Opelousas\]](http://www.aaregistry.com/african_american_history/1173/Massacre_in_Opelousas)
- Nov. 3 **TN** U. S. Grant is elected President. Southern black men, voting in their first national election, cast 700,000 votes for the Republican ticket. Many of the less wealthy white voters also vote Republican, reflecting the growing class conflict between poor farmers and wealthy plantation owners. East Tennessee, a stronghold of Unionism during the war, is already strongly Republican; the high Republican vote in West Tennessee, where most black voters live, reflects a combination of black & white voting power. [\[http://www.umich.edu/~lawrace/votetour2.htm\]](http://www.umich.edu/~lawrace/votetour2.htm) [\[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)

## 1869

--- TN

Tennessee is the first state to replace a bi-racial Republican state government with an all-white Democratic government, followed by Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia in 1870. DeWitt Senter ensures his victory in the governor's race by advocating the registration of ex-Confederate voters.

[<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/reconstruction/timeline.html>]

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Massachusetts elects two African Americans to its State House of Representatives: Edward G. Walker and Charles L. Mitchell become the first African Americans to serve in a legislative assembly.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index\\_2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index_2.html)]

Winter TN

The Freedmen's Bureau reports that there are now nearly 3,000 schools in the South, serving over 150,000 black students.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

*[Integration of schools will come much more slowly: it is not until May 1957 that Bobby Cain, a student at Clinton High School, Clinton, Anderson County, Tennessee, will become the first African American to graduate from a state-supported integrated public high school in the South.]* [<http://pr.utk.edu/alumnus/alumarticle.asp?id=431>]

Feb. 8 TN

Birth date of **Jesse M. H. Graham** in Clarksville, Tennessee, according to legislative record. Actual birth year was probably 1859.

[*Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly.* ]

Feb. 26

Congress approves the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment **#19**, stating that "race, color, or previous condition of servitude" will not be used to bar U.S. male citizens from voting; they send it to the states for ratification.

[<http://www.law.emory.edu/FEDERAL/usconst/amend.html>]

Feb. 27

John W. Menard, elected as a Republican from Louisiana to the House or Representatives, is barred from his seat by white Congressmen and pleads his case to be seated, becoming the first African American representative to speak on the floor of the House. Congress still refuses to seat Menard.

[<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/ashp/toer/toer-timeline.html>]

Mar. 4

U.S. Grant is inaugurated the nation's eighteenth President (1869-1877).

Mar. 4

By the end of the 41<sup>st</sup> U.S. Congress, two African Americans will have been seated: Robert Brown Elliot and Joseph H. Rainey, both of South Carolina. [<http://www.thegreenpapers.com/soc/note.phtml?congress=42>]

--- TN

Following a private meeting with President Grant, Nathan Bedford Forrest **#18** issues a document disbanding the Ku Klux Klan, stating that it is "being perverted from its original honorable and patriotic purposes, becoming injurious instead of subservient to the public peace." Forrest's actions may be motivated, at least in part, by hopes of avoiding punishment for the illegal activities of an organization that is largely out of control. The Klan has been extremely violent for years under his leadership, and he disbands it only when it comes under intense criticism (and when its work is essentially done — many blacks and Republicans have already been frightened away from the polls). Whatever Forrest's motives, Klan violence most assuredly does not end with his declaration.

[<http://www.splcenter.org/intel/intelreport/article.jsp?aid=518> ]

- Apr. 6 President Grant appoints Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett minister to Haiti. Bassett is the first black American diplomat and the first black American Presidential appointment. For many years thereafter, both Democratic and Republican administrations will appoint African Americans as ministers to both Haiti and Liberia. [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html>]
- May 10 The first rail line to cross the continent is completed. The railroad network that will now develop is the major factor in the emergence of a new industrial age, which will dramatically change the nation's labor and employment patterns. [<http://www.roebuckclasses.com/201/chronology/ch15chron.htm>]
- Sept. 11 **TN** African American city councilman Randal Brown urges Nashville blacks to join the Black Exodus and homestead movement westward; other leaders express concern about the Chinese laborers being brought in to replace black workers. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- October As brutal attacks on African Americans continue throughout the South, Georgia legislator Abram Colby, the black son of a white planter, is kidnapped and whipped by the Klan. Although his back is permanently injured and he loses the use of his left hand, he returns to the legislature and continues to campaign against Klan violence. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/players/p2\\_09\\_tr\\_qry.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/players/p2_09_tr_qry.html)]
- Nov. 16 **TN** Tennessee rejects the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment **#19**, and does not join other states in post-ratifying it until 1997. It will be the last state to ratify. [<http://www.law.emory.edu/FEDERAL/usconst/amend.html>]

## **1870**

- The 1870 Census shows that African Americans make up 12.7% of the U.S. population (4,880,009 of 39,818,449).
- **TN** Although blacks comprise one-third of Middle Tennessee's population, only six percent of black families own their own land. In West Tennessee, where African Americans are 40% of the population, most are laborers or sharecroppers. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- Most of the black members remaining in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, leave (with the denomination's blessing) to form the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church (today's Christian Methodist Episcopal Church). [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern\\_Methodist\\_Church](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Methodist_Church)]
- **TN** Due to the political skills of African American leader Edward Shaw, who holds the post of wharf master in Memphis, Shelby County elects as many as six black city councilmen during the 1870s and 1880s. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- **TN** A series of yellow fever epidemics will devastate Memphis for the next decade, killing hundreds of people, and even causing the State of Tennessee to revoke the city's charter in 1879 because of the collapse of the city's financial base. [["Yellow Fever Epidemics." \*Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.\*](#)]
- **TN** A large number of convicts are leased from the main prison in Nashville to three separate railroad companies in Tennessee. [[http://www.blackcommentator.com/142/142\\_slavery\\_2.html](http://www.blackcommentator.com/142/142_slavery_2.html)]

- Jan. 10 Grant proposes a treaty to annex what is now the Dominican Republic in an effort to find land where freed slaves can settle. The Senate Foreign Relations committee opposes the plan, and the treaty is never approved. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]
- Jan. 10 **TN** The Tennessee Constitutional Convention begins.
- Jan. 26 Virginia is readmitted to the Union. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]
- Feb. 3 Jasper J. Wright, an African American judge, is elected to the South Carolina Supreme Court. [<http://www.votingrights.org/timeline/?year=1800>]
- Feb. 17 **TN** The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment **#19** to the Constitution is ratified by 29 of the 37 states, guaranteeing the right of African American men to vote. 1869: Nevada, West Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Maine, Massachusetts, Arkansas, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York (which then rescinds its approval), Indiana, Connecticut, Florida, New Hampshire, Virginia, Vermont, and Alabama. 1870: Missouri, Minnesota, Mississippi, Rhode Island, Kansas, Ohio, Georgia, Iowa, and (satisfying the 29-state requirement, in case NY's withdrawal is effective) Nebraska. The amendment is rejected by Maryland, Kentucky, & Tennessee. Eventually all the remaining states post-ratify the amendment: Texas (2-18-1870), New Jersey (2-15-1871), Delaware (2-12-1901), Oregon (2-24-1959), California (4-3-1962), Maryland (5-7-1973), Kentucky (3-18-1976), and, last of all, Tennessee (April 3, 1997). [<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/data/constitution/amendments.html#7>]
- Feb. 23 **TN** The Tennessee Constitutional Convention ends, having adopted the Constitution that is still in effect today. It outlaws slavery and ensures universal suffrage. The Supreme Court will later strike down provisions forbidding interracial marriage, blocking integrated schools, and allowing a poll tax. [<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/bluebook/online/section5/tnconst.pdf>]
- Feb. 23 Mississippi is readmitted to the Union. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]
- Feb. 25 Hiram Revels, a Republican from Mississippi, is sworn in as the first black member of the United States Senate. Ironically, Revels is elected to fill the position vacated by Jefferson Davis nearly 10 years earlier. Revels serves only through March 4, 1871, the remainder of Davis's vacated term. [<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/nc/bio/afro/revels.htm>]
- Mar. 17 North Carolina Governor Holden sends for federal troops to help control the Ku Klux Klan. Public backlash will cost him the next election. [<http://srnels.people.wm.edu/iron/timeline.html>]
- Mar. 30 Texas is readmitted to the Union. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]
- May 31 President Grant signs the first of the Enforcement Acts **#20**. These "Force Acts" make the bribing, intimidation, or racial discrimination of voters federal crimes. They also authorize the use of federal troops against the KKK, outlawing conspiracies to prevent the exercise of constitutional rights. Three such laws are passed between May 1870 and April 1871. All are declared unconstitutional in *United States v. Cruikshank* (1876) [<http://www.pinzler.com/ushistory/timeline6.html>]
- July 15 Georgia is readmitted to the Union – the last of the Confederacy to return. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

Dec. 12 Joseph Hayne Rainey, born a slave in 1832, is sworn in to fill an unexpired term in the U. S. House of Representatives. A South Carolina Republican, he will be re-elected four times, serving until 1879, thus becoming the longest-serving black Congressman until the 1950s.  
[\[http://web.gc.cuny.edu/ashp/toer/toer-timeline.html\]](http://web.gc.cuny.edu/ashp/toer/toer-timeline.html)

## 1871

--- The General Assembly establishes branch penitentiaries in the East Tennessee coal fields and begins the practice of leasing prisoners to work in the mines. By 1884 the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railway Company has taken complete control and leases the entire prison population.  
[\[http://www.pbs.org/whbg/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/whbg/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)

Mar. 4 During the 42<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Congress, there are five black members in the House of Representatives: Benjamin S. Turner of Alabama; Josiah T. Walls of Florida; and Robert Brown Elliot, Joseph H. Rainey, and Robert Carlos DeLarge of South Carolina.  
[\[http://www.thegreenpapers.com/soc/note.phtml?congress=42\]](http://www.thegreenpapers.com/soc/note.phtml?congress=42)

Apr. 20 The Ku Klux Klan Act becomes law, allowing President Grant to suspend *habeas corpus* in enforcing the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.  
[\[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html\]](http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html)

Autumn TN LeMoyne College (later to be called LeMoyne-Owen College) opens in Memphis with nearly 300 students and three active departments: normal, commercial, and music. [\[http://www.loc.edu/welcome/history.htm\]](http://www.loc.edu/welcome/history.htm)

Oct. 6 TN The Fisk Jubilee Singers leave Nashville on their first American concert tour to raise money for the college. Among the eleven students on the tour is **Greene E. Evans**, who will be elected to the General Assembly ten years later. Director George White has planned a route in keeping with the Underground Railroad: over the next eighteen months, beginning in Cincinnati, the group will visit Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., giving hundreds of performances, and raising \$40,000 for Fisk University. Although the Singers perform many types of music, it is their performance of Negro spirituals that awakens an interest in this genre of music and becomes the distinctive signature of the group.  
[\[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index\\_2.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index_2.html)

Oct. 12 Congress listens to testimony from victims of Klan violence in the South. Grant takes action: having ordered the Ku Klux Klan in SC to disperse and surrender arms, he quickly sends in federal troops to suppress the Klan.  
[\[http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html\]](http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html)

Oct. 17 The last of a series of anti-Klan Enforcement Acts **#20** is passed, providing protection to African Americans voting in federal elections. Nonetheless, both black and poor white voters will increasingly be kept from voting by locally enforced poll taxes as well as literacy tests and property ownership requirements. [\[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index\\_2.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index_2.html) However, blacks do represent a considerable voting force in the South for some time, sometimes combining with various groups of “populist” white voting blocs. [\[Hunt\]](#) African American political

disfranchisement will not be complete until after the enactment of the Mississippi state constitution in 1890.

## **1872**

--- **TN**

The *Memphis Weekly Planet* becomes West Tennessee's first African American newspaper. ["Publishing." *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*.]

--- Vanderbilt University is chartered under the name of Central University of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

[<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/admissions/history.htm>]

Feb. 27 Charlotte Ray (daughter of Charles Bennett Ray, who has been editor of the *Colored American*, an important early New York newspaper, and is also pastor of the Bethesda Congregational Church) graduates from Harvard University. She is the first African American woman lawyer in the United States and the first woman admitted to the bar in the District of Columbia, which has removed the term "male" from the requirements for the bar. [[http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio\\_ray\\_charlotte.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio_ray_charlotte.htm)]

Mar. 4 **TN** The Fisk Jubilee Singers perform for Vice President Colfax and members of Congress but are forced to leave their Washington, D.C., hotel because of their race. [<http://members.tripod.com/microtonal/music/papers/gospel.html>]

Mar. 5 **TN** The Fisk Jubilee Singers perform for President Grant at the White House. [[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index\\_2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index_2.html)]

May 1 At the Liberal Republican Convention in Cincinnati, party leaders, displeased with vindictive Reconstruction policies and corruption (which they call "Grantism") nominate newspaperman Horace Greeley.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

May 6 **TN** The Fisk Jubilee Singers embark on a year-long concert tour of Great Britain that will earn \$50,000 for the university and earn them invitations to sing for Queen Victoria and other European monarchs.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index\\_2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index_2.html)]

May 22 President Grant signs the Amnesty Act, restoring full civil rights to all white Southern men except about 500 former Confederate leaders .

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

June 5 At the Republican Convention in Philadelphia, the party re-nominates Ulysses S. Grant on the first ballot.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

July 1 Congress terminates the Freedmen's Bureau. [<http://www.answers.com/topic/bureau-of-refugees-freedmen-and-abandoned-lands>]

July 9 The Democratic party joins the Liberal Republicans in nominating Horace Greeley for President. [See entry for May 1, 1872]

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

Sept. 21 John Henry Conyers of South Carolina becomes the first black student at the Annapolis Naval Academy.

[[http://www.brainyhistory.com/events/1872/september\\_21\\_1872\\_58080.html](http://www.brainyhistory.com/events/1872/september_21_1872_58080.html)]

Nov. 5 Ulysses S. Grant is re-elected with a popular majority of 763,000 and an electoral college majority of 286-66 over opponent Horace Greeley.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

Dec. 9 Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback of Louisiana becomes the nation's first African American governor; however, because of white antipathy he serves only very briefly, leaving office on 13 January 1873.  
[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index\\_2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index_2.html)]

## **1873**

--- **TN**

James T. Rapier, educated in Nashville's free black schools, becomes the first black Congressman from Alabama.

[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

Jan. 6 **TN**

**Samson W. Keeble** (ca. 1833-1887) takes his seat as the first African American member of the Tennessee State Legislature in the 38<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 1873-1875. He is appointed to the committees on Immigration, Military Affairs, and Tippling and Tippling Houses, and is later added to the committee on Charitable Institutions. He introduces three bills, none of them successful, and frequently speaks in favor of protecting the wages of laborers. [House Journal]

Winter

The *New York Tribune* publishes a series of articles accusing black lawmakers in South Carolina of corruption.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

Mar. 18 **TN**

**Samson W. Keeble** introduces *House Bill No. 506*, to protect laborers, and to secure their wages; it passes the first reading but does not receive a second – the legislature adjourns one week later. [House Journal]

Apr. 13

The Colfax Massacre—a paramilitary group known as the White League, part of a “shadow government” in Louisiana (and similar in many respects to the Ku Klux Klan), clashes with the state militia, which is largely black. Three members of the White League die in the attack, but about 100 black men are killed, nearly half of them slaughtered in cold blood after their surrender. Similar incidents occur about the same time in Coushatta and New Orleans. President Grant sends federal troops to restore order.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

--- **TN**

Frederick Douglass, speaking in Nashville, urges black Tennesseans to stay and fight for racial justice rather than to join the Black Exodus west.

[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

Sept. 18

The Panic of 1873 plunges the nation into a depression.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

[<http://www.pinzler.com/ushistory/timeline6.html> ]

## **1874**

---

Democrats control both Houses of Congress for the first time since before the Civil War.

June 29

The Freedmen's Bank closes. Originally created to provide a safe place for black soldiers to deposit their pay, the bank rapidly becomes the financial base of many in the African American community, devastating them when it closes. Contrary to what depositors have been led to believe, the bank's assets are not protected by the federal government. In spite of desperate attempts to revive the bank (Frederick Douglass pours thousands of dollars of his own money into an effort to save it), half the depositors will eventually get back only about 60% of their money; others receive nothing. Some depositors and their descendants spend as many as thirty years petitioning Congress for reparation.

[<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer/freedmans-savings-and-trust.html>]

Fall

As the fall elections approach, reports of Southern violence, political corruption, and economic depression give a considerable advantage to the Democrats, who will take control of Congress when it convenes in 1875.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

## **1875**

--- **TN**

Knoxville College opens during this year as a normal school under the auspices of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. It will be designated as a college in 1877, offering teacher training; full college courses in classics, science, and theology; and classes in agriculture, industrial arts, and medicine. Because, in these early years, so few blacks are prepared for higher education, the college initially offers classes from first grade through college level. The elementary department will be discontinued in 1926 and the academy (high school) in 1931.

[<http://www.knoxvillecollege.edu/history.htm>]

Jan. 26

Andrew Johnson is elected to the U.S. Senate as a Democrat from Tennessee. [<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]

Mar. 1

The Forty-Fourth Congress, which has six black members and is still under the control of the Republicans, passes the Civil Rights Act of 1875 **#21**, which outlaws racial segregation in public facilities and housing and prevents the exclusion of African Americans from jury service.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index\\_3.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index_3.html)] (Not enforced in the South, the law will be struck down by the Supreme Court in 1883.)

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

Mar. 5

Blanche Kelso Bruce takes his seat as the United States Senator from Mississippi. He will be the first African American Senator to serve a full six-year term. [<http://chnm.gmu.edu/courses/122/recon/chron.html>]

Mar. 11 **TN**

The Tennessee Legislature passes House Bill No. 527 permitting racial discrimination in transportation, lodging, and places of entertainment. The Bill receives Senate approval before the end of the month and becomes law (Chapter 130) **#22**.

Mar. 23 **TN**

Chapter XC of the Acts of Tennessee 1875 **#23** orders the establishment of a state normal school or schools, the creation of a State Board of Education, and the requirement that separate schools “for white and colored pupils” should be established.

May 5 **TN**

The Fisk Jubilee Singers return to the U.S., having raised \$50,000 for the University during a year-long British tour.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index\\_2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index_2.html)]

July 5 **TN**

African American preacher Hezekiah Hanley holds a celebration of racial unity in Memphis. Among the invited white guests are Nathan Bedford Forrest and other former Confederate generals.

[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm> ]

July 31 **TN**

Andrew Johnson dies of a stroke and is buried in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Dec. 1 **TN**

The Inaugural Exercises of the State Normal College, known as “The Peabody State Normal School of the University of Nashville,” are held in the House of Representatives. This particular institution will accept white students only. [[Tennessee State School Board Minute Book #55](#)]

## 1876

--- TN

**Styles L. Hutchins** graduates from University of South Carolina Law School and is admitted to the South Carolina bar. [[“Styles L. Hutchins.” Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.](#)]

--- TN

William F. Yardley, a Knoxville politician, becomes the first African American to campaign for governor of Tennessee.

[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm> ]

Apr. 5 TN

The Colored National Convention meets in the House Chamber of the Tennessee General Assembly. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia are represented. Tennessee delegates are W. Sumner, Abram Smith, Edward Shaw, and James C. Napier. Former Louisiana Governor Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback and Senator H.S. Smith of Alabama deliver speeches that are considered the “high point of the convention.” The Convention’s efforts to choose and endorse a Presidential candidate are unsuccessful, although Edward Shaw, Memphis wharf master, speaks out strongly against the Grant administration. [[Walker](#)]

Oct. 13 TN

Meharry Medical College, the first American college for the training of African American physicians, opens in Nashville. The Freedmen’s Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church helps establish Meharry as a department of Central Tennessee College.

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index\\_3.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers/timeline/index_3.html)]

Nov. 7

Edward Bouchet becomes the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from an American institution (Yale University).

[<http://www.energyquest.ca.gov/scientists/bouchet.html>]

Nov. 8

The bitterly disputed Presidential election takes place between candidates Samuel J. Tilden (D) and Rutherford B. Hayes (R).

Nov. 9

Because of allegations of voting fraud in four states, there is no certain victor in the Presidential election. Tilden receives 184 electoral votes and Hayes, 165; 21 votes are uncertain. Both candidates claim victory.

[<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]

## 1877

---

By this year about 2,000 African American men have held/are holding public office, “ranging from member of Congress to justice of the peace.” In spite of prohibitions against educating slaves, “83 percent of the black officials [are] able to read and write.” Twelve percent of them are lawyers or school teachers. [[Foner](#)]

--- TN

From an African American prison population of 33 percent at the main prison in Nashville, the number has now risen to 67%. Other Southern states also have predominantly black prison populations, far out of proportion to the percentage of blacks in the general population.

[[http://www.vmf.state.va.us/hyman/hyman\\_migration1.html](http://www.vmf.state.va.us/hyman/hyman_migration1.html)]

--- TN

**Sampson W. Keeble** is elected a magistrate in Davidson County, serving until 1882. [[Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly](#)]

Jan. 24

Congress appoints a 15-member electoral commission to resolve the disputed election. In what is little more than a back-room deal, the Republicans agree to abandon Reconstruction policies in exchange for the

Presidency. The so-called “Compromise of 1877” results in an end to military intervention in the South and restores “home rule.”

[<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]

[[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf\\_timeline2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html)]

Mar. 5 **TN**

Rutherford B. Hayes is inaugurated the nation’s nineteenth President (1877-1881). He quickly withdraws federal troops from the South, officially ending Reconstruction. The South begins the process of codifying and enforcing segregation. Although Tennessee will elect a number of black politicians over the next few years, the last African American state legislator will end his term in 1893, and no other will be seated until 1964. Violations of black civil rights will not again be addressed on a national scale until after World War II.

Mar. 15

*The Nation* reports that “the great body of the Republican party is ... opposed to the continuance at the South of the policy of military interference and coercion as pursued by General Grant.”

[<http://itw.sewanee.edu/reconstruction/html/chronology.html>]

June 14

Henry Ossian Flipper becomes the first African American to graduate from West Point. [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html>]

## **1878**

--- **TN**

James Carroll Napier, an 1872 graduate of the Howard University Law School, is elected the first black city councilman in Nashville, serving five terms. He will later serve as Register of the United States Treasury under President William Howard Taft (1911-1913). [[http://www.aaregistry.com/african\\_american\\_history/2046/James\\_Napier\\_businessman\\_and\\_more](http://www.aaregistry.com/african_american_history/2046/James_Napier_businessman_and_more)]

--- **TN**

**Thomas F. Cassels** is appointed assistant attorney general in Memphis. [*Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*]

--- **TN**

**John W. Boyd** is elected as magistrate of the Ninth Civil District, Tipton County. [*Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*]

## **1879**

--- **TN**

East Tennessee University, one of the earliest land-grant colleges, is renamed the University of Tennessee. [[www://http://web.utk.edu/~mklein/](http://web.utk.edu/~mklein/)]

## **1880**

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The 1880 Census shows that African Americans make up 13.1% of the U.S. population (6,580,793 of 50,155,783).

---

**Styles L. Hutchins** becomes the first black attorney admitted to the Georgia bar, despite legal efforts to block him from taking the test.

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The National Baptist Convention, USA, has its beginnings in a meeting of 150 Baptist pastors in Montgomery, Alabama. [<http://www.nationalbaptist.com/Index.cfm?FuseAction=Page&PageID=1000082>]

--- **TN**

Even at this late date, 50%-60% of rural freedmen continue to work as wage laborers, many on the same farms on which they were once slaves. [*“Reconstruction.” Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.*]

## **1881**

--- **TN**

The Black Exodus to Kansas and other Western states, which began about 1872, comes gradually to an end. More than 2,400 people have migrated from Nashville alone. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]

- **TN** During 1881, despite the black representatives in the House, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Tennessee Legislature passes the first “Jim Crow” law in the South, requiring the segregation of the races on railroad cars. By 1900 all Southern states will have segregated their transportation systems, a move sanctioned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1896 with the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision. Future laws will be passed that discriminate against African Americans regarding public school attendance, housing, and the use of public facilities such as restaurants, theaters, and hotels. In 1967, when the Court rules miscegenation laws unconstitutional, 16 states will still have laws prohibiting interracial marriage. It will be November 2000 before Alabama, the last hold-out, repeals its law – although 40% of the electorate votes to keep it! [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miscegenation>]
- **TN** **John W. Boyd** (ca. 1841-post 1885), a Republican, is elected to represent Tipton County in the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assemblies, 1881-1885. He is appointed to the committees on Immigration, New Counties and County Lines, and Tippling and Tippling Houses. [[House Journal](#)]
- **TN** **Thomas Frank Cassels** (ca. 1843-?) is elected as a Republican from Shelby County, serving in the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly from 1881-1883. He is appointed to the committees on Education and Common Schools, Judiciary, Privileges and Elections, and Public Roads. [[House Journal](#)]
- **TN** **Isaac F. Norris** is elected as a Republican from Shelby County, to serve in the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly from 1881-1883. He is appointed to the committees on Banks, Claims, Immigration, and Public Grounds and Buildings. [[House Journal](#)]
- **TN** **Thomas A. Sykes** (1835-?) is elected to represent Davidson County in the legislature, in spite of decreased black voting strength brought on by a new poll tax and acts of violence against blacks. A Republican, he is appointed to the committees on Claims and Penitentiary. [[House Journal](#)]
- **TN** **Styles L. Hutchins** opens a law office in Chattanooga and becomes a partner in a newspaper, *The Independent Age*, of which he is editor. [[“Styles L. Hutchins.” Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.](#)]
- Jan. 11 **TN** **Isaac F. Norris** introduces [House Bill No. 33](#), relating to labor contracts between employer and employee. It passes its first reading and is referred to the Judiciary Committee. It passes its second reading 22 Feb. [[Note: All bill references from this year come from the Tennessee House Journal, Session 42, 1881](#)]
- Jan. 12 **TN** **Thomas A. Sykes** introduces [House Bill No. 70](#), proposing to repeal [Chapter 130 of the Acts of 1875](#) **#22** and end racial discrimination in the use of public facilities and transportation. It passes first and second readings.
- Jan. 12 **TN** **Thomas F. Cassels** introduces [House Bill No. 73](#), “to prohibit unlawful carnal intercourse of white persons with negroes, mulattoes and persons of mixed blood descended from the negro race, and to proscribe the punishment for violation thereof.” It passes first and second readings.
- Feb. 15 **TN** **Isaac F. Norris** introduces [House Bill No. 276](#), “An Act instructing the Trustees of the Tennessee University, to make arrangements for persons of color who may be entitled to admission.” It passes its first reading and is referred to the Judiciary Committee; after passing its

second reading, it is referred to the Committee on Education and Common Schools, where it is tabled.

- Feb. 16 **TN** **Thomas A. Sykes** introduces [\*House Bill No. 289\*](#), to admit African American students “into the school for the blind at Nashville and the school for the deaf and dumb at Knoxville, in separate accommodations provided for them.” The bill passes its first reading and is referred to the Judiciary Committee. A week later it passes its second reading.
- Feb. 17 **TN** **Thomas F. Cassels** introduces [\*House Bill No. 312\*](#), “An Act to repeal Chapter 131 of an act passed March 19, 1879.” It passes its first reading and is referred to the Judiciary Committee, where it is tabled.
- Feb. 24 **TN** After two vicious lynchings in Springfield, the General Assembly has passed a resolution condemning “this violation of law as tending to subvert all government, and as deserving prompt punishment”; legislators have also passed a bill to punish any sheriff whose negligence allows a prisoner to be taken from his custody “and put to death by violence.” Hoping to take advantage of the legislature’s unanticipated disposition toward justice, **Thomas F. Cassels** introduces [\*House Bill No. 478\*](#) to compensate families of the victims of mob violence. His bill passes the first reading but dies in committee.
- Feb. 25 **TN** [\*House Bill No. 33\*](#) (by **Isaac F. Norris**), relating to labor contracts, passes its third reading by a vote of 38-25.
- Feb. 26 **TN** **Isaac F. Norris** introduces [\*House Bill No. 510\*](#), concerning the payment of wages of laborers. It passes its first reading and is referred to the Judiciary Committee. It passes its second reading 29 March; there are no further references.
- Mar. 4 James A. Garfield is inaugurated the nation’s twentieth President (1881).
- Mar. 10 **TN** **Thomas A. Sykes** introduces [\*House Bill No. 560\*](#), to eliminate discrimination against blacks in jury selection for circuit and criminal courts. On March 29 the bill passes its second reading but is apparently tabled before being brought to a vote.
- Mar. 10 **TN** On its third reading, Sykes’ [\*House Bill No. 70\*](#) (to repeal Chapter 130) is rejected by a vote of 31-29 when five Republicans join Democrats in voting against it.
- Mar. 24 **TN** [\*House Bill No. 73\*](#) is taken up as a special order. A number of amendments are offered; Cassels’ attempt to call the previous question on the passage of the bill fails for lack of a second; a motion to table the bill and all amendments prevails.
- Mar. 30 **TN** The four black legislators [**Boyd, Cassels, Norris, and Sykes**] file a protest against the rejection of [\*House Bill No. 70\*](#) **#34**, saying that *Chapter 130* “authorizes railroad companies and their employes, unjustly, cruelly, wantonly, without just cause of provocation, and in violation of the common law and the laws of the general government, to oppress and discriminate against more than four hundred thousand citizens of the State of Tennessee, and the colored people of all other States who may desire to travel in Tennessee,” and that it “wickedly, cruelly, and inhumanly attempts to deny to persons aggrieved by the provisions of the said act any remedy or redress of grievances in the State courts of Tennessee.”

- Mar. 30 **TN** **Isaac F. Norris** introduces [\*House Bill No. 682\*](#), concerning discrimination against railroad passengers (referring to Chapter 130, Acts of Tennessee, 1875). The bill passes its first and second readings (March 30 and March 31), but is subsequently tabled.
- Mar. 30 [\*House Bill No. 289\*](#), admitting black students into the school for the blind and the school for the deaf and dumb, passes by a vote of 59-1 and becomes law.
- Apr. 7 **TN** The Tennessee House of Representatives passes a “compromise” bill, [\*Senate Bill No. 342\*](#), permitting “separate but equal” facilities for African Americans on trains. This bill requires railroad companies either to partition off a portion of a first-class car for black passengers who have paid first-class fare, or to provide separate cars for blacks. Having passed the Senate 18-1, it passes the House 50-2. **Norris** and **Sykes** vote against the bill; **Boyd** is absent; **Cassels** abstains. Thirteen other Southern states will follow Tennessee’s lead and segregate public carriers over the next few years. [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html>]
- Apr. 14 **TN** The General Assembly passes a \$10,000 appropriations bill for the State Normal College, which will be augmented by a \$6,000-9,000 grant from the Peabody Education Fund for student scholarships. [[Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55](#)]
- Apr. 14 **TN** The State Board of Education reports that it is authorized by the General Assembly to spend “\$10,000 annually for Normal School purposes,” \$2,500 of which is reserved “for the normal education of colored teachers.” The Board meanwhile invites the state’s black colleges to submit proposals “to educate the colored candidates for teachers.” [[Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55](#)]
- June 3 **TN** The State Board of Education asks the governor to notify the legislature “that only \$2,500 in gross is appropriated for the Colored Normal School.” [[Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55](#)]
- June 15 **TN** The State Board of Education appropriates \$50 per year for the education of each African American scholarship student. That gives each Senatorial district two black students, who will be appointed by the Senator from that district from among those receiving the highest scores on a standard examination. The schools approved for the education of normal students are Knoxville College, Knoxville; Freedmen’s Normal Institute, Maryville; Fisk University, Nashville Theological and Normal Institute, and Central Tennessee College, Nashville; and LeMoyne Normal Institute, Memphis. [[Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55](#)]
- July 2 President James Garfield is shot by assassin Charles Guiteau. Garfield will lie in the White House for weeks, mortally wounded but clinging to life as doctors attempt to save him.
- July 4 The first president of Tuskegee Institute, Dr. Booker T. Washington, who was born a slave, officially opens the Normal School for Colored Teachers in Macon County, Alabama. Washington is a champion of vocational education as a means to African American self reliance. [[http://www.tuskegee.edu/Global/category.asp?C=56172&nav=menu200\\_2](http://www.tuskegee.edu/Global/category.asp?C=56172&nav=menu200_2)]
- Sept. 19 President Garfield dies, more than eleven weeks after he was shot. Chester A. Arthur, a Republican from Vermont, becomes the twenty-first President (1881-1885).

Nov. 30 **TN** **Jessee** [sic] **Graham** is listed in the State School Board minutes as a recipient of a Peabody Scholarship to attend Fisk University. [Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55]

## **1882**

--- **TN** More than half the convicts in the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville are now being leased out as laborers.

[[http://www.blackcommentator.com/142/142\\_slavery\\_2.html](http://www.blackcommentator.com/142/142_slavery_2.html)]

--- **TN** Between 1882 and 1930 Tennessee has 214 confirmed lynching victims: most in middle and west Tennessee, most (83%) African Americans. ["Lynching." *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*.]

--- The Supreme Court rules in *United States vs. Harris* that the Klan Act **#20** (see May 31, 1870) is partially unconstitutional, asserting that Congress's power under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment does not apply to private conspiracies. [<http://www.oyez.org/oyez/resource/case/407/>]

Apr. 6 **TN** In the second extra House Session, **Thomas A. Sykes** introduces *House Bill No. 3*, "To exempt educational institutions from taxation." It passes the first and second readings and is referred to the Committee on Education and Common Schools. It is eventually tabled.

## **1883**

--- A flood of civil rights cases strikes down the federal Civil Rights Act of 1875. Congress may no longer legislate on civil rights issues unless states pass discriminatory laws. [[www.pinzler.com/ushistory/timeline6.html](http://www.pinzler.com/ushistory/timeline6.html)]

--- **TN** **Leon Howard** is elected to represent Shelby County in the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly from 1883 to 1885. A Republican, he helps defeat two blacks (one is **Isaac Norris**) running on the Democratic ticket. He is appointed to the committee on Military Affairs. [House Journal]

--- **TN** **Samuel Allen McElwee** (1858-1930), a Republican, is elected to the 43<sup>rd</sup> (also 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup>) General Assembly, representing Haywood County from 1883-1889. He is appointed to the committees on Military Affairs and Public Printing. [House Journal]

--- **TN** **David Foote Rivers** (1859-1941) is elected, representing Fayette County as a Republican in the 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies, 1883-1887. He is appointed to the committees on Education and Common Schools, Federal Relations, and Public Printing. [House Journal] Even though there are twice as many African American residents in Fayette County as white, the county will send only two black representatives to Nashville: **David Rivers** (1883-87) and **Monroe W. Gooden** (1887-89).

--- **TN** **John W. Boyd** serves a second term representing Tipton County. He is appointed to the committee on Federal Relations. [House Journal]

Jan. 5 **TN** **Samuel A. McElwee** introduces *House Bill No. 12*, To amend the law establishing a State Normal School. The bill passes its first reading and is referred to the Committee on Education and Common Schools. It passes its second reading on 16 January. [Note: All bill references for this year come from the House Journal, Session 43, 1883.]

Jan. 5 **TN** **Leon Howard** introduces *House Bill No. 34*, to repeal *Chapter 130 of the Acts of 1875 #22*. The bill is referred to the Judiciary Committee, where it dies.

- Jan. 10 **TN** **Leon Howard** introduces [\*House Bill No. 129\*](#), To repeal sections 2437a and 2437b of the Code, in regard to illicit intercourse. It passes first reading and is sent to the Judiciary Committee, where it dies.
- Jan. 10 **TN** **Saml. A. McElwee** [*sic*] and **Jesse M. H. Graham** are listed as recipients of Peabody Scholarships to attend Fisk University. [[Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55](#)]
- Feb. 8 **TN** In his annual report to the General Assembly, Governor William Brimage Bate (1826-1905) recommends legislation authorizing the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, who will be responsible for the education of African American students. [[House Journal](#)]
- Feb. 15 **TN** [\*House Bill No. 12\*](#) has been made the special order for the session, having been passed over three times earlier. McElwee reduces the appropriation to black students, but the House votes to table the bill; however, they prove willing to approve the committee's bill on the same subject and appropriate \$3,300 per year for normal school scholarships for African American students, making each scholarship worth \$50.
- Feb. 15 **TN** **Leon Howard** introduces [\*House Bill No. 493\*](#), Providing for the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent of Public Schools. It passes its first and second reading and is referred to the Committee on Education and Common Schools, where it is tabled.
- Feb. 19 **TN** **Samuel A. McElwee** introduces [\*House Bill No. 526\*](#), "to amend section 4000 of the Code, in regard to selecting jurors." The bill passes its first and second readings, but there are no further references to it after that.
- Feb. 20 **TN** **Leon Howard** introduces [\*House Bill No. 556\*](#), To repeal part of the Act relating to inn-keepers, common carriers, etc. The bill passes its first and second readings but is tabled by the Judiciary Committee.
- Feb. 27 **TN** **John W. Boyd** introduces [\*House Bill No. 663\*](#), To prevent discrimination by railroad companies in passenger rates paying first-class fare. This bill is one of several representing the black legislators' more tightly focused effort to weaken the power of Chapter 130 of the Acts of 1875. It passes its first and second readings and is referred to the Judiciary Committee.
- Mar. 21 **TN** After hours of debate, **Leon Howard** offers an amendment repealing only the provision of the Act of 1875 that pertains to railroads; it is defeated by a vote of 64-27.
- Mar. 24 **TN** W. A. Milliken offers an amendment to **Boyd's** [\*House Bill No. 663\*](#), requiring railroad companies to provide separate cars for different passengers. It passes by a vote of 56-19, with **Boyd** voting against it, and **Howard** and **McElwee** (both deeply opposed to the separate-but-equal provision) abstaining.
- Apr. 24 **TN** **David F. Rivers** is listed as the recipient of a Peabody Scholarship in the minutes of the State Board of Education. Appointed by Senator Cason, District 12, he attends Roger Williams University. [[Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55](#)]
- May 1 **TN** Eben S. Stearns, President of the Peabody Normal College, lists the "Requirements for Obtaining and Holding Peabody Scholarships at the Normal College at Nashville, Tenn." Students meeting all the scholarship requirements can receive up to \$200 per year for board and other college expenses. [[Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55](#)]

- Oct. 15 The Supreme Court declares the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional, finding that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment forbids states, but not individual citizens, from discriminating. [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html>]
- Nov. 26 Death of Sojourner Truth (Isabella Baumfree, born 1797), ardent abolitionist and powerful public speaker.

## **1884**

--- **TN**

Feb. 28 **TN**

--- **TN**

June 24

Nov. 4

## **1885**

--- **TN**

--- **TN**

--- **TN**

--- **TN**

Ida B. Wells files a lawsuit against the Chesapeake & Ohio & Southwestern Railroad Company for segregation on the company's railroad cars. **Thomas F. Cassels** is her first lawyer. [[Goings & Smith](#)]

More than 300 black leaders from 17 Tennessee counties meet in Nashville to discuss the role of African Americans in local and national elections. The largest delegations are from Shelby County, with 62 delegates; Davidson, 52; and Haywood, 48. **Thomas F. Cassels**, serving as chairman, shares his concerns that many current state laws violate the constitutional rights of black Tennesseans. James C. Napier, the keynote speaker, stresses the need for political unity among black voters. **Samuel A. McElwee**'s demand that black unity occur within the Republican party stirs up enormous controversy. The convention ends by warning that failure to support black causes will erode black commitment to the party. At the State Republican Convention **Samuel A. McElwee** is elected temporary chairman and is chosen as one of two delegates (the other is General George Maney) to the Chicago Presidential Convention, which nominates James G. Blaine. [<http://www.chicagohs.org/P3/p3time.html>]

John Lynch is the first black to be elected chairman of the Republican National Convention. [<http://www.brainyhistory.com/years/1884.html>]

Grover Cleveland, a Democrat from New York, is elected president.

**Greene E. Evans** (1848-?) is elected Republican representative from Shelby County to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 1885-1887. He is on the committee on Education & Common Schools. [[House Journal](#)]

**William A. Fields** (ca. 1852-?) is elected to represent Shelby County in the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly from 1885-1887. A Republican, Fields is a farmer and school teacher in the 5<sup>th</sup> Civil District of Shelby County. He is appointed to the committees on Federal Relations, Internal Improvement, and Public Roads. [[House Journal](#)]

**William C. Hodge** (ca. 1846-?) is the first black elected from Hamilton County, serving as a Republican in the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly from 1885-1887. He is appointed to the committees on Education and Common Schools, Military Affairs, and Penitentiary. [[House Journal](#)]

**Samuel A. McElwee**, serving a second term in the legislature representing Haywood County, receives the Republican nomination for Speaker of the House. Though the nomination is largely symbolic in the Democratic-controlled legislature, McElwee receives 32 votes. He serves on the committee on Banks. [[House Journal](#)] During this year his wife dies, leaving him with two small children. Placing the children with relatives, he enters Central Tennessee College, earning a law degree the following year. [["Samuel A. McElwee." Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.](#)]

- **TN** **David F. Rivers** is listed in the *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly, Volume II, 1861-1901*, as a member of the 1885 General Assembly, but does not appear in any records in the House Journal for that year. According to family members, Rivers, having been driven out of Fayette County by racial violence, does not serve out the legislative term to which he has been elected but takes a position teaching theology at Roger Williams University in Nashville.
- Jan. 15 **TN** **William A. Fields** introduces [\*House Bill No. 119\*](#). To make school attendance compulsory. It passes its first reading and is referred to the Committee on Education and Common Schools. [Note: All bill references for this year come from the House Journal, Session 44, 1885.]
- Jan. 19 **TN** **William C. Hodge** introduces [\*House Bill No. 139\*](#), To amend the road law of 1883. It passes first reading and is referred to the Committee on Public Roads. It is tabled on its second reading on February 27.
- Jan. 19 **TN** **William C. Hodge** introduces [\*House Bill No. 140\*](#), To amend the road law. It passes first reading and is referred to the Committee on Public Roads. On its second reading on February 27, it is tabled.
- Jan. 19 **TN** **William C. Hodge** introduces [\*House Bill No. 141\*](#), to repeal [\*Chapter 130 of the Acts of 1875\*](#) **#22**. It passes its first reading, and then, on 29 January, its second reading.
- Jan. 19 **TN** **William A. Fields** introduces [\*House Bill No. 151\*](#), requiring employers to pay employees the amount promised in their advertisements. The bill passes its first reading and is referred to the Judiciary committee. It will pass its second reading on January 24.
- Jan. 19 **TN** **Greene E. Evans** introduces [\*House Bill No. 156\*](#), To amend the road law. It passes first reading and is referred to the Committee on Public Roads. Returned to the House on March 2, it will be tabled.
- Feb. **TN** In his annual report to the General Assembly, Governor William Brimage Bate (1826-1905), for the second time, urges legislation authorizing the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, responsible for the education of African American students.
- Feb. 14 **TN** **Greene E. Evans** presents [\*House Bill No. 447\*](#), to repeal [\*Chapter 130 of the Acts of 1875\*](#) **#22**. The bill passes first and second readings, but then is referred to the Judiciary Committee, where it dies.
- Feb. 18 **TN** **Samuel A. McElwee** introduces [\*House Bill No. 495\*](#), To protect married women and their children.” It passes its first and second readings and is referred to the Judiciary Committee. On February 28 it is withdrawn without explanation.
- Feb. 19 **TN** **Greene E. Evans** presents [\*House Bill No. 514\*](#), in accordance with the request of Governor Bate, providing for the appointment of an Assistant State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The bill passes its first and second readings, and is then sent to the Committee on Education and Common Schools, of which Evans is a member, where it is tabled.
- Feb. 27 **TN** [\*House Bill No. 141\*](#), on third reading, is defeated by a vote of 49-20.
- Mar. 2 **TN** [\*House Bill No. 151\*](#) is rejected.
- Mar. 3 **TN** [\*House Bill No. 119\*](#) is tabled.

- Mar. 4 Grover Cleveland becomes the nation's 21<sup>st</sup> President (1885-1889).
- May 20 **TN** The State School Board asks the General Assembly to repeal the act reducing the salary of the State Superintendent. [[Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55](#)]
- May 25 **TN** The General Assembly meets in extraordinary session. They will meet through June 12.
- May 27 **TN** **Greene E. Evans** introduces [House Bill No. 29](#), To provide for the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction. It passes first and second readings and is referred to the Committee on Education and Common Schools, where it is tabled.
- May 27 **TN** **William A. Fields** introduces [House Bill No. 34](#), To empower Managers of Teachers' Institutes to examine and issue certificates, to be approved by the County Superintendent. It passes first and second readings and is referred to the Committee on Education and Common Schools, where it is tabled.
- June 3 **TN** **William C. Hodge** introduces [House Bill No. 63](#), To provide for the protection of the ballot box. It passes first and second readings and is referred to the Committee on Elections, where it dies.
- June 25 African American priest Samuel David Ferguson is ordained a bishop of the Episcopal church; he will serve until his death in 1916.  
[<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timeline.html>]

## **1886**

- **TN** The Sunday School Union, where the first Sunday school literature by African Americans is published, moves from Bloomington, Indiana, to a five-story brick and stone building at 206 Public Square in Nashville.  
[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/ame.htm>]
- **TN** This year will see the establishment of the first black-owned drug store in Nashville. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- Feb. 20 **TN** The State Board of Education submits payment for sixty-one African American students who have received State Normal (Peabody) Scholarships to attend Central Tennessee College, Fisk University, Knoxville College, and Roger Williams University. [[Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55](#)]
- **TN** **Samuel A. McElwee** receives a law degree from Central Tennessee College in Nashville. [["Samuel A. McElwee." Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.](#)]
- Sept. 20 **TN** Nashville's first public high school for African American students opens: Meigs Public School offers the first classes for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders; new courses for 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be added in the 1887-1888 school year. Ten years later (1897-1898 school year) the high school department at Meigs is transferred to Pearl High School, from which the first class will graduate on 2 June 1898. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/pearl.htm>]
- Dec. 8 The American Federation of Labor is organized, signaling the rise of the labor movement. Black Americans are excluded from all major unions of the period. [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timelin2.html>]

## **1887**

--- **TN**

**Monroe W. Gooden** (1848-1915), the only Democrat among the African American legislators, is elected to represent Fayette county in the 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly from 1887-1889. He is appointed to the committees on Agriculture and Federal Relations. [[House Journal](#)]

--- **TN**

**Styles Linton Hutchins**, a Republican, begins his legislative term, representing Hamilton County in the 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly from 1887-1889. He is appointed to the committees on Education and Common Schools, and New Counties and County Lines. [[House Journal](#)]

--- **TN**

**Samuel A. McElwee**, a Republican, is elected to a third term representing Haywood County. He is appointed to the committees on Charitable Institutions, Elections, and Judiciary. Gooden, Hutchins, and McElwee are the last African Americans elected to serve in the Tennessee General Assembly until Memphis voters elect A. W. Willis in 1964, more than 75 years later. [[House Journal](#)]

--- **TN**

Booker T. Washington invites **Samuel A. McElwee** to be commencement speaker at the 1887 graduation exercises of Tuskegee Institute. [[“Samuel A. McElwee.” Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture.](#)]

Jan. 7 **TN**

In the wake of a brutal lynching in West Tennessee, **Samuel A. McElwee** introduces [House Bill No. 5](#), to prevent mob violence. The bill passes its first and second readings and is referred to the Judiciary committee. **McElwee** makes several attempts to have the bill declared the special order for the session (Feb. 16, 21, and 22)

Jan. 12 **TN**

**Styles L. Hutchins** introduces [House Bill No. 136](#), to repeal a section of the Chattanooga charter making poll taxes a requirement for voting in city elections. It passes its second reading a week later.

Feb. 9 **TN**

**Styles L. Hutchins** introduces [House Bill No. 447](#) to regulate convict labor, a system that has replaced slave labor in the South: new laws are sending many African Americans to prison for minor offenses, and convicts are being forced to do jobs that are now unavailable to free laborers. The bill passes its first and second readings and is referred to the Committee on Penitentiary, where it is tabled.

Feb. 22 **TN**

[House Bill No. 5](#), to prevent mob violence, having been delayed for several days, is at last made the special order for the afternoon session. **Samuel A. McElwee** makes a powerful speech [#24](#) in its support, demanding reform: “I stand here today and enter my most solemn protest against mob violence in Tennessee . . . Great God, when will this Nation treat the Negro as an American citizen? . . . As a humble representative of the Negro race, and as a member of this body, I stand here today and wave the flag of truce between the races and demand a reformation in Southern society.” The Judiciary Committee offers a substitute bill. By a 41-36 vote, both bills are tabled.

[<http://www.barnard.columbia.edu/archives/persons.html>]

Mar. 5 **TN**

Morristown Seminary and Normal Institute, Morristown, Tennessee, is designated as one of the colleges eligible for Peabody Scholarship students “of African descent.” [[Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55](#)]

- Mar. 23 **TN** [\*House Bill No. 136\*](#), to amend the charter of Chattanooga to eliminate poll taxes, passes on third reading. The ease of the bill's passage suggests that whites have not yet realized the effectiveness of the poll tax as a method of restricting black voters from exercising their rights.
- Aug. 15 Eatonville, Florida, becomes the first African American township to be incorporated into the United States.
- Dec. 7 **TN** Central Tennessee College, Fisk University, and Roger Williams University ask the State Board of Education to urge the General Assembly "to restore the former appropriations for colored scholarships to \$3300." [\[Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55\]](#)
- **TN** **Sampson W. Keeble** dies in Nashville. He is buried with his daughter and son-in-law in Greenwood Cemetery on Elm Hill Pike.

## **1888**

- **TN** **Samuel A. McElwee** attends the Republican National Convention in Chicago as one of two delegates representing Tennessee. **Thomas F. Cassels** serves as a Republican Presidential elector.
- Two large African-American-owned banks open during the year: the Savings Bank of the Grand Fountain United Order of the Reformers (Richmond, Virginia) and Capital Savings Bank (Washington, D.C.). [\[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timelin2.html\]](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timelin2.html)

## **1889**

- **TN** With more than a 2/3 majority in both Houses of the General Assembly, Tennessee Democrats disfranchise black voters in the state by passing four restrictive bills sponsored by Senators Myers, Dortch, and Lea, as well as reinstating a poll tax urged by Governor Robert L. Taylor [\[Cartwright, p. 223 ff.; "Disfranchising Laws." \*Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture\*.\]](#) This is the first legislative session in nearly ten years in which no African American representative is seated.
- **TN** The General Assembly, for reasons that are unspecified but probably related to the same political climate that permitted the passage of laws limiting black suffrage, cuts the appropriation for "colored normal scholarships" from \$3,300 to \$1,500 per year, making each individual scholarship worth only \$22.70. In his 1889 Annual Report of the State School Board to the Legislature, Board Secretary Frank Goodman [\[http://pages.prodigy.net/nhn.slate/nh00059.html\]](http://pages.prodigy.net/nhn.slate/nh00059.html) protests these cuts and requests that the original appropriation be restored. [\[Tennessee State Board of Education Minute Book #55\]](#)
- Mar. 4 Benjamin Harrison becomes the nation's 22<sup>nd</sup> President (1889-1893).
- Mar. 30 **TN** Cabell Rives Berry, Senator from Williamson and Marshal Counties, introduces an amendment to Senate Appropriations Bill No. 456, making the item "Colored Normal Department" call for "\$3,300 per annum instead of \$2,500 per annum, as the bill now provides."
- **TN** Senate Appropriations Bill No. 456, with amendments added by the Senate Committee on Finance, Ways & Means (none of which change the scholarship appropriation in any way) will pass both the Senate and the House before the end of the 1889 session. This vote is particularly surprising in light of the disfranchising bills passed during the session.

## 1890

- According to the 1890 census, African Americans make up 11.9% of the U.S. population (7,488,676 of 62,947,714).
- **TN** The Black Northern Migration draws thousands of black Tennesseans to the industrial cities of the North. Between 1870 and 1930 Tennessee's black population declines to 18.3% from an earlier figure of 25.6%.  
[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- The American Baptist Publication Society no longer publishes the writings of African American ministers because Southern readers have objected to them. [<http://www.nationalbaptist.com/Index.cfm?FuseAction=Page&PageID=1000082>]
- "Pitchfork Ben" Tillman is elected governor of South Carolina. An apologist for violence against blacks, Tillman calls his victory "a triumph of ... white supremacy." His words are generally more inflammatory than his policies – he makes an effort to curb lynching in his state, while also advocating segregation and disfranchisement of black voters.  
[<http://projects.vassar.edu/1896/tillman.html>]
- Nov. 1 The Mississippi Plan becomes law on this date. It uses literacy and "understanding" tests to disenfranchise minority voters. Similar statutes will be adopted by South Carolina (1895), Louisiana (1898), North Carolina (1900), Alabama (1901), Virginia (1901), Georgia (1908), and Oklahoma (1910) [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timelin2.html>]

## 1891

- **TN** The Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company (TCI) uses convicts as strikebreakers when coal miners strike. Violent uprisings continue until 1895, when the General Assembly ends the practice of convict leasing.  
[[http://www.blackcommentator.com/142/142\\_slavery\\_2.html](http://www.blackcommentator.com/142/142_slavery_2.html)]

## 1892

- **TN** Vigilante groups produce havoc throughout Tennessee. A Sevier County group known as the White Caps begins a reign of terror, beating and occasionally killing people (primarily women) they believed to be "lewd or adulterous." Their activities continue nearly unchecked until 1896.  
[<http://tnhendersons.rootsweb.com/ms-photos.html>]
- **TN** Approximately 235 African Americans will lose their lives to lynchings this year; 204 black Tennesseans will be lynched in the years between 1890 and 1950. [<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- March **TN** After Ida B. Wells speaks out in *The Memphis Free Speech* against a recent lynching, a white mob burns the newspaper office. Wells is forced to move out of the state to guarantee her safety,  
[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- May 20 **TN** Frederick Douglass speaks at the First Colored Baptist Church in response to recent lynchings in Nashville and Goodlettsville.  
[<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/document.htm>]
- Dec. 1 **TN** Dr. Miles V. Lynk, a graduate of Meharry Medical School and the first African American physician in Madison County, publishes the first national medical journal for black physicians, *The Medical and Surgical Observer*. He is 21 years old. He will later found the University of West Tennessee, earn a law degree, serve as Dean of the School of Nurse

Training of Terrill Memorial Hospital in Memphis, and become the ninth recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the National Medical Association. [<http://www.vic.com/tncron/class/Lynk.htm>]  
Dec. 27 Biddle University (NC) defeats Livingstone College (NC) 5-0 in the first football game between teams from black colleges.  
[[http://www.blackathlete.com/College\\_football/index.shtml](http://www.blackathlete.com/College_football/index.shtml)]

## **1893**

Mar. 4 Grover Cleveland is sworn in to his second term as President, the first covering the years 1885-1889, and the second running from 1893-1897.  
--- **TN** After about 50 years of the practice known as convict leasing, the Tennessee General Assembly finally addresses the issue and passes legislation to construct a new state penitentiary and abolish convict leasing at the expiration of the lease contract in 1896. [“Convict Lease Wars.” *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*.]

--- **TN** **David F. Rivers** takes a position as pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kansas. [David F. Rivers papers, TSLA]

## **1894**

--- African American workers are hired by the Pullman Company as strike breakers after a costly strike by employees.  
[<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timelin2.html>]

## **1895**

--- **Jesse M.H. Graham** becomes editor of the Clarksville *Enterprise*.

Feb. 20 Death of Frederick Douglass.

Sept. 18 Booker T. Washington delivers the “Atlanta Compromise” address at the Atlanta Cotton States Exposition. He asserts that the “Negro problem” will be resolved if the South abides by a policy of gradualism and accommodation. [<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timelin2.html>] Much of what Washington proposes is black self-help: African Americans will rise socially and politically if they work, save, and gain an education, but whites must be willing to accept and encourage this effort.

Sept. 24 The National Baptist Convention of the United States is created by the union of several smaller Baptist organizations. The Baptist church becomes the nation’s largest African American religious denomination.  
[<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timelin2.html>] [<http://www.nationalbaptist.com/Index.cfm?FuseAction+Page&PageID=1000082>]

Dec. 4 In the state Constitutional Convention, South Carolina adopts a new constitution containing an “understanding” clause designed to eliminate black voters. [<http://members.aol.com/wdwyllie6/1890-1899.htm>]

## **1896**

--- **TN** **Samuel L. McElwee** and James Napier are named to the original committee of the Negro Department of the Tennessee Centennial. Both will withdraw before the Exposition opens on May 1, 1897. [Couto]  
--- **TN** Richard H. Boyd establishes the National Baptist Publishing Board, which is reportedly the oldest extant African-American-owned publishing company. [“Publishing.” *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*.]

- May The U.S. Supreme Court, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, upholds Louisiana statute requiring “separate but equal” accommodations on railroads, saying segregation is not necessarily discrimination. Justice Harlan’s dissent (“The Constitution is color-blind!”) insists that all segregation is inherently discrimination, that states cannot impose criminal penalties upon a citizen who merely wants to use public highways and carriers. It is this very argument that will eventually be used to win *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954). <http://www.pinzler.com/ushistory/timeline6.html>
- July 21 The National Association of Colored Women is established, with Mary Church Terrell as its first president. [\[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timelin2.html\]](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timelin2.html)
- Nov. 3 William McKinley, an Ohio Republican, is elected President.

## **1897**

--- **TN**

- Jesse M. H. Graham** is elected as a Republican representing Montgomery County in the 50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. He arrives in Nashville to find his seat contested on the first day of session. Although he is provisionally seated on 4 January 1897, his election is subject to investigation by the Committee on Elections. The committee decides on 20 January that neither Graham nor the challenger is entitled to the seat (Graham, because he does not have the required three-year legal residence). The House passes a resolution declaring Graham’s seat vacant by a vote of 76-0, with 23 not voting. [\[House Journal\]](#)
- Mar. 4 William McKinley is inaugurated as President (1897-1901).
- May 1 **TN** The Tennessee Centennial Exposition opens in Nashville, to run until October 31. It was a successful effort to stimulate the economy after a 20-year period of economic depression.
- **TN** During 1897 Tennessee Coal (TCI) pays Louisiana \$18.50 a month for a first-class state convict. [\[http://members.aol.com/wdwylic6/1890-1899.htm\]](http://members.aol.com/wdwylic6/1890-1899.htm)

## **1898**

- Apr. 21 The Spanish-American War begins. Black volunteers make up sixteen regiments, four of which will see combat. Five African Americans win Congressional Medals of Honor for their valor. [\[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timelin2.html\]](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aap/timelin2.html)
- Apr. 25 Announcing their judgment in the case of *Williams v. Mississippi*, the Supreme Court rules in favor of the Mississippi Constitution, which requires voters to pass a literacy test in order to receive a ballot. This law, clearly aimed at disenfranchising black voters, places the power of interpretation in the hands of local, politically appointed registrars. [\[http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories\\_events\\_williams.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_williams.html)
- June 2 **TN** The first class graduates from Pearl High School, Nashville’s African American high school. [\[http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/pearl.htm\]](http://www.tnstate.edu/library/digital/pearl.htm)

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## **1. Lord Dunmore's Proclamation (1775)**

By His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN Earl of DUNMORE, His Majesty's Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of VIRGINIA, and Vice Admiral of the same.

### **A PROCLAMATION**

As I have ever entertained Hopes, that an Accommodation might have taken Place between GREAT-BRITAIN and this Colony, without being compelled by my Duty to this most disagreeable but now absolutely necessary Step, rendered so by a Body of armed Men unlawfully assembled, firing on His MAJESTY'S Tenders, and the formation of an Army, and that Army now on their March to attack his MAJESTY'S Troops and destroy the well disposed subjects of the Colony. To defeat such treasonable Purposes, and that all such Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Justice, and that the Peace, and good Order of this Colony may be again restored, which the ordinary Course of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, hereby declaring, that until the aforesaid good Purpose can be obtained, I do in Virtue of the Power and Authority to ME given, by His MAJESTY, determine to execute Martial Law, and cause the same to be executed throughout this Colony: and to \*\*\*\*\* the Peace and good Order may the sooner be restored, I do require every Person capable of bearing Arms, to resort to His MAJESTY'S STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty the Law inflicts upon such Offenses; such as forfeiture of Life, confiscation of Lands, &. &. And I do hereby further declare all indented Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His MAJESTY'S Troops as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty, to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Dignity. I do further order, and require, all His MAJESTY'S Liege Subjects, to retain their Quitrents, or any other Taxes due or that may become due, in their own Custody, till such a Time as Peace may be again restored to this at present most unhappy Country, or demanded of them for their former salutary Purposes, by Officers properly \*\*\*\*\* to receive the same.

GIVEN under my Hand on board the Ship WILLIAM by Norfolk, the 7th Day of November in the SIXTEENTH Year of His MAJESTY'S Reign.

DUNMORE

(GOD save the KING.)

## **2. Virginia Declaration (1775)**

Virginia, Dec. 14, 1775.

By the Representatives of the People of the Colony and Dominion of VIRGINIA,  
assembled in GENERAL CONVENTION

### ***A DECLARATION***

WHEREAS lord Dunmore, by his proclamation, dated on board the ship William, off Norfolk, the 7th day of November 1775, hath offered freedom to such able-bodied slaves as are willing to join him, and take up arms, against the good people of this colony, giving thereby encouragement to a general insurrection, which may induce a necessity of inflicting the severest punishments upon those unhappy people, already deluded by his base and insidious arts; and whereas, by an act of the General Assembly now in force in this colony, it is enacted, that all negro or other slaves, conspiring to rebel or make insurrection, shall suffer death, and be excluded all benefit of clergy : We think it proper to declare, that all slaves who have been, or shall be seduced, by his lordship's proclamation, or other arts, to desert their masters' service, and take up arms against the inhabitants of this colony, shall be liable to such punishment as shall hereafter be directed by the General Convention. And to that end all such, who have taken this unlawful and wicked step, may return in safety to their duty, and escape the punishment due to their crimes, we hereby promise pardon to them, they surrendering themselves to Col. William Woodford, or any other commander of our troops, and not appearing in arms after the publication hereof. And we do farther earnestly recommend it to all humane and benevolent persons in this colony to explain and make known this our offer of mercy to those unfortunate people.

EDMUND PENDLETON, president.

### **3. Early Draft of the Declaration of Independence (1776)**

**A Declaration by the Representatives of United States of America, in General Congress Assembled** [Note: section referring to slavery is in bold type. Word spellings are as they occur in the original.]

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for a people to advance from that subordination in which they have hitherto remained, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the equal and independent station to which the laws of nature and of nature's god entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the change

We hold these truths to be [sacred and undeniable] selfevident, that all men are created equal and independent; that from that equal creation they derive in rights inherent and inalienables, among which are the preservation of life, and liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these ends, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government shall become destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing it's powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes: and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. but when a long train of abuses and usurpations, begun at a distinguished period, and pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to [subject] reduce them to arbitrary power, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. --

Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to expunge their former systems of government. the history of his present majesty is a history of unremitting injuries and usurpations, among which no fact stands single or solitary to contradict the uniform tenor of the rest, all of which have in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. to prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world, for the truth of which we pledge a faith yet unsullied by falsehood.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good:

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has neglected utterly to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people unless those people would relinquish the right of representation [in the legislature], a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only:

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

[he has dissolved]he has refused for a long space of time, to cause others to be elected, whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise, the state remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within:

he has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands:

he has suffered the administration of justice totally to cease in some of these colonies, refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers:

he has made our judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount of their salaries.

he has erected a multitude of new offices by a self-assumed power, and sent hither swarms of officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

he has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies and ships of war:

he has affected to render the military, independent of and superior to civil power:

he has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitutions, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their pretended acts of legislation, for quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

for protecting them, by mock trial, from punishment for any murders [which] they should commit on the inhabitants of these states; for cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

for imposing taxes on us without our consent;

for depriving us of the benefits of trial by jury;

for transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offenses;

for taking away our charters, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments;

for suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever;

he has abdicated government here, withdrawing his governors, and declaring us out of his allegiance and protection;

he has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people:

he is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy unworthy the head of a civilized nation:

he has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions of existence:

he has incited treasonable insurrections of our fellow citizens with the allurements of forfeiture and confiscation of our property:

**he has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating it's most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation hither. this piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian king of Great Britain. [determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold,] he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce [determining to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold]: and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he had deprived them, by murdering the people upon whom he also obtruded them: thus paying off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.**

in every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. a prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a people who mean to be free. future ages will scarce believe that the hardness of one man, adventured within the short compass of twelve years only, on so many acts of tyranny without a mask, over a people fostered and fixed in principles of liberty.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. we have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over these our states. we have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here, no one of which could warrant so strange a pretension: that these were effected at the expence of our own blood and treasure, unassisted by the wealth or the strength of Great Britain: that in constituting indeed our several forms of government, we had adopted one common king, thereby laying a foundation for perpetual league and amity with them: but that submission to their parliament was no part of our constitution, nor ever in idea, if history may be credited: and we appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, as well as to the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which were likely to interrupt our correspondence and connections. they too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity, and when occasions have been given them, by the regular course of their laws, of removing from their councils the disturbers of our harmony, they have by their free election re-established them in power. at this very time too they are permitting their chief magistrate to send over not only soldiers of our common blood, but Scotch and foreign mercenaries to invade and deluge us in blood. these facts have given the last stab to agonizing affection, and manly spirit bids us to renounce forever these unfeeling brethren. We must endeavor to forget our former love for them, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends. we might have been a free and a great people together; but a communication of grandeur and of freedom it seems is below their dignity. be it so, since they will have it:

the road to [glory and] happiness [and to glory] is open to us too; we will climb it apart from them [in a separate state] and acquiesce in the necessity which denounces [pronounces][ our [everlasting Adieu!] eternal separation!

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled do , in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these states, reject and renounce the allegiance and subjection to the kings of Great Britain and all others who may hereafter claim by, through, or under them; we utterly dissolve and break off all political connection which may have heretofore subsisted between us and the people or parliament of Great Britain; and finally we do assert and declare these colonies to be free and independent states, and that as free and independent states they shall hereafter have [full] power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

#### **4. Vermont Constitution, July 8, 1777 (Introduction and Chapter I)**

WHEREAS, all government ought to be instituted and supported, for the security and protection of the community, as such, and to enable the individuals who compose it, to enjoy their natural rights, and the other blessings which the Author of existence has bestowed upon man; and whenever those great ends of government are not obtained, the people have a right, by common consent, to change it, and take such measures as to them may appear necessary to promote their safety and happiness.

And whereas, the inhabitants of this State have (in consideration of protection only) heretofore acknowledged allegiance to the King of Great Britain, and the said King has not only withdrawn that protection, but commenced, and still continues to carry on, with unabated vengeance, a most cruel and unjust war against them; employing therein, not only the troops of Great Britain, but foreign mercenaries, savages and slaves, for the avowed purpose of reducing them to a total and abject submission to the despotic domination of the British parliament, with many other acts of tyranny, (more fully set forth in the declaration of Congress) whereby all allegiance and fealty to the said King and his successors, are dissolved and at an end; and all power and authority derived from him, ceased in the American Colonies.

And whereas, the territory which now comprehends the State of *Vermont*, did antecedently, of right, belong to the government of *New-Hampshire*; and the former Governor thereof, viz. his Excellency *Benning Wentworth*, Esq., granted many charters of lands and corporations, within this State, to the present inhabitants and others. And whereas, the late Lieutenant Governor *Colden*, of *New York*, with others, did, in violation of the tenth command, covet those very lands; and by a false representation made to the court of Great Britain, (in the year 1764, that for the convenience of trade and administration of justice, the inhabitants were desirous of being annexed to that government,) obtained jurisdiction of those very identical lands, *ex-parte*; which ever was, and is, disagreeable to the inhabitants. And whereas, the legislature of *New-York*, ever have, and still continue to disown the good people of this State, in their landed property, which will appear in the complaints hereafter inserted, and in the 36th section of their present constitution, in which is established the grants of land made by that government.

They have refused to make regents of our lands to the original proprietors and occupants, unless at the exorbitant rate of 2300 dollars fees for each township; and did enhance the quit-rent, three fold, and demanded an immediate delivery of the title derived before, from *New-Hampshire*.

The judges of their supreme court have made a solemn declaration that the charters, conveyances, &c. of the lands included in the before described premises, were utterly null and void, on which said title was founded: in consequence of which declaration, writs of possession have been by them issued, and the sheriff of the county of Albany sent, at the head of six or seven hundred men, to enforce the execution thereof.

They have passed an act, annexing a penalty thereto, of thirty pounds fine and six months imprisonment, on any person who should refuse assisting the sheriff, after being requested, for the purpose of executing writs of possession.

The Governors, *Dunmore*, *Tryon* and *Colden*, have made re-grants of several tracts of land, included in the premises, to certain favorite land jobbers in the government of *New-York*, in direct violation of his Britannic majesty's express prohibition, in the Year 1767.

They have issued proclamations, wherein they have offered large sums of money, for the purpose of apprehending those very persons who have dared boldly, and publicly, to appear in defence of their just rights.

They did pass twelve acts of outlawry, on the 9th day of March, A. D. 1774, empowering the respective judges of their supreme court, to award execution of death against those inhabitants in said district, that they should judge to be offenders, without trial.

They have, and still continue, an unjust claim to those lands, which greatly retards emigration into, and the settlement of, this State.

They have hired foreign troops, emigrants from *Scotland*, at two different times, and armed them, to drive us out of possession.

They have sent the savages on our frontiers, to distress us.

They have proceeded to erect the counties of Cumberland and Gloucester, and establish courts of justice there, after they were discountenanced by the authority of Great Britain.

The free convention of the State of *New-York* at *Harlem*, in the year 1776, unanimously voted, " That all quit-rents, formerly due to the King of Great Britain, are now due and owing to this Convention. Or such future government as shall be hereafter established in this State."

In the several stages of the aforesaid oppressions, we have petitioned his Britannic majesty, in the most humble manner, for redress? and have, at very great expense, received several reports in our favor; and, in other instances, wherein we have petitioned the late legislative authority of New-York, those petitions have been treated with neglect.

And whereas, the local situation of this State, from *New-York*, at the extreme part, is upward of four hundred and fifty miles from the seat of that government, which renders it extreme difficult to continue under the jurisdiction of said State

Therefore, it is absolutely necessary, for the welfare and safety of the inhabitants of this State, that it should be, henceforth, a free and independent State; and that a just, permanent, and proper form of government, should exist in it, derived from, and founded on, the authority of the people only, agreeable to the direction of the honorable American Congress.

We the representatives of the freemen of Vermont, in General Convention met, for the express purpose of forming such a government, confessing the goodness of the Great Governor of the universe, (who alone, knows to what degree of earthly happiness, mankind may attain, by perfecting the arts of government,) in permitting the people of this State, by common consent, and without violence, deliberately to form for themselves, such just rules as they shall think best for governing their future society; and being fully convinced that it is our indispensable duty, to establish such original principles of government, as will best promote the general happiness of the people of this State, and their posterity, and provide for future improvements, without partiality for, or prejudice

against, any particular class, sect, or denomination of men whatever,-do, by virtue of authority vested in us, by our constituents, ordain, declare, and establish, the following declaration of rights, and frame of government, to be the CONSTITUTION of this COMMONWEALTH, and to remain in force therein, forever, unaltered, except in such articles, as shall, hereafter, on experience, be found to require improvement, and which shall, by the same authority of the people, fairly delegated, as this frame of government directs, be amended or improved, for the more effectual obtaining and securing the great end and design of all government, herein before mentioned.

## **CHAPTER I**

### **A DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE STATE OF VERMONT**

I. THAT all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety. Therefore, no male person, born in this country, or brought from over sea, ought to be holden by law, to serve any person, as a servant, slave or apprentice, after he arrives to the age of twenty-one Years, nor female, in like manner, after she arrives to the age of eighteen years, unless they are bound by their own consent, after they arrive to such age, or bound by law, for the payment of debts, damages, fines, costs, or the like.

II. That private property ought to be subservient to public uses, when necessity requires it; nevertheless, whenever any particular man's property is taken for the use of the public, the owner ought to receive an equivalent in money.

III. That all men have a natural and unalienable right to worship ALMIGHTY GOD, according to the dictates of their own consciences and understanding, regulated by the word of GOD; and that no man ought, or of right can be compelled to attend any religious worship, or erect, or support any place of worship, or maintain any minister, contrary to the dictates of his conscience; nor can any man who professes the protestant religion, be justly deprived or abridged of any civil right, as a citizen, on account of his religious sentiment, or peculiar mode of religious worship, and that no authority can, or ought to be vested in, or assumed by, any power whatsoever, that shall, in any case, interfere with, or in any manner controul, the rights of conscience, in the free exercise of religious worship: nevertheless, every sect or denomination of people ought to observe the Sabbath, or the Lord's day, and keep up, and support, some sort of religious worship, which to them shall seem most agreeable to the revealed will of GOD.

IV. That the people of this State have the sole, exclusive and inherent right of governing and regulating the internal police of the same.

V. That all power being originally inherent in, and consequently, derived from, the people; therefore, all officers of government, whether legislative or executive, are their trustees and servants. and at all times accountable to them.

VI. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation or community; and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single man, family or set of men, who are a part only of that community; and that the community hath an indubitable, unalienable and indefeasible

right to reform, alter, or abolish, government, in such manner as shall be, by that community, judged most conducive to the public weal.

VII. That those who are employed in the legislative and executive business of the State, may be restrained from oppression, the people have a right, at such periods as they may think proper, to reduce their public officers to a private station, and supply the vacancies by certain and regular elections.

VIII. That all elections ought to be free; and that all freemen. having a sufficient, evident, common interest with, and attachment to the community, have a right to elect officers, or be elected into office.

IX. That every member of society hath a right to be protected in the enjoyment of life, liberty and property, and therefore, is bound to contribute his proportion towards the expense of that protection, and yield his personal service, when necessary, or an equivalent thereto; but no part of a man's property can be justly taken from him, or applied to public uses, without his own consent, or that of his legal representatives; nor can any man who is conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms, be justly compelled thereto, if he will pay such equivalent; nor are the people bound by any law' but such as they have, in like manner, assented to, for their common good.

X. That, in all prosecutions for criminal offences, a man hath a right to be heard, by himself and his counsel-to demand the cause and nature of his accusation-to be confronted with the witnesses- to call for evidence in his favor, and a speedy public trial, by an impartial jury of the country; without the unanimous consent of which jury, he cannot be found guilty; nor can he be compelled to give evidence against himself; nor can any man be justly deprived of his liberty, except by the laws of the land or the judgment of his peers.

XI. That the people have a right to hold themselves, their houses, papers and possessions free from search or seizure; and therefore warrants without oaths or affirmations first made, affording a sufficient foundation for them, and whereby any officer or messenger may be commanded or required to search suspected places, or to seize any person or persons, his, her or their property, not particularly described, are contrary to that right, and ought not to be granted.

XII. That no warrant or writ to attach the person or estate. of any freeholder within this State, shall be issued in civil action, without the person or persons, who may request such warrant or attachment, first make oath, or affirm, before the authority who may be requested to issue the same, that he, or they, are in danger of losing his, her or their debts.

XIII. That, in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, the parties have a right to a trial by jury; which ought to be held sacred.

XIV. That the people have a right to freedom of speech, and of writing and publishing their sentiments; therefore, the freedom of the press ought not be restrained.

XV. That the people have a right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the State; and, as standing armies, in the time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military should be kept under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

XVI. That frequent recurrence to fundamental principles, and a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, industry and frugality, are absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty, and keep government free. The people ought, therefore, to pay particular attention to these points, in the choice of officers and representatives, and have a right to exact a due and constant regard to them, from their legislators and magistrates, in the making and executing such laws as are necessary for the good government of the State.

XVII. That all people have a natural and inherent right to emigrate from one State to another, that will receive them, or to form a new State in vacant countries, or in such countries as they can purchase? whenever they think that thereby they can promote their own happiness.

XVIII. That the people have a right to assemble together, to consult for their common good-to instruct their representatives, and to apply to the legislature for redress of grievances, by address, petition or remonstrance.

XIX. That no person shall be liable to be transported out of this State for trial, for any offence committed within this State.

## **5. The Wilmot Proviso (1846)**

*“Provided that, as an express and fundamental condition to the acquisition of any territory from the Republic of Mexico by the United States, by virtue of any treaty which may be negotiated between them, and to the use by the Executive of the moneys herein appropriated, neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory, except for crime, whereof the party shall first be duly convicted.”*

## **6. The Lecompton Constitution, Kansas (1857)**

Excerpts relating to slavery (from *Annals of Kansas*, 1857):

### ARTICLE VII.—SLAVERY

SECTION 1. The right of property is before and higher than any constitutional sanction, and the right of the owner of a slave to such slave and its increase is the same and as inviolable as the right of the owner of any property whatever.

SECTION 2. The Legislature shall have no power to pass laws for the emancipation of slaves without the consent of the owners, or without paying the owners previous to their emancipation a full equivalent in money for the slaves so emancipated. They shall have no power to prevent immigrants to the State from bringing with them such persons as are deemed slaves by the laws of any one of the United States or Territories, so long as any person of the same age or description shall be continued in slavery by the laws of this State: *Provided*, That such person or slave be the *bona fide* property of such immigrants: *And provided, also*, That laws may be passed to prohibit the introduction into this State of slaves who have committed high crimes in other States or Territories. They shall have power to pass laws to permit the owners of slaves to emancipate them, saving the rights of creditors, and preventing them from becoming a public charge. They shall have power to oblige the owners of slaves to treat them with humanity, to provide for them necessary food and clothing, to abstain from all injuries to them extending to life or limb, and, in case of their neglect or refusal to comply with the direction of such laws, to have such slave or slaves sold for the benefit of the owner or owners.

SECTION 3. In the prosecution of slaves for crimes of higher grade than petit larceny, the Legislature shall have no power to deprive them of an impartial trial by a petit jury.

SECTION 4. Any person who shall maliciously dismember, or deprive a slave of life, shall suffer such punishment as would be inflicted in case the like offense had been committed on a free white person, and on the like proof, except in case of insurrection of such slave.

## **7. Morrill Act of 1862**

### **Act of 1862 Donating Lands for Colleges of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts**

**AN ACT Donating public lands to the several States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress as assembled,* That there be granted to the several States, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, an amount of public land, to be apportioned to each State a quantity equal to thirty thousand acres for each Senator and Representative in Congress to which the States are respectively entitled by the apportionment under the census of eighteen hundred and sixty; *Provided,* That no mineral lands shall be selected or purchased under the provisions of this act.

**Sec. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That the land aforesaid, after being Surveyed, shall be apportioned to the several States in sections or subdivisions of sections, not less than one-quarter of a section; and whenever there are public lands in a State subject to sale at private entry at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, the quantity to which said State shall be entitled shall be selected from such lands within the limits of such State, and the

Secretary of the Interior is hereby directed to issue to each of the States in which there is not the quantity of public lands subject to sale at private entry at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, to which said State may be entitled under the provisions of this act, land scrip to the amount in acres for the deficiency of its distributive share: said scrip to be sold by said States and the proceeds thereof applied to the uses and purposes prescribed in this act, and for no other use or purpose whatsoever: *Provided,* That in no case shall any State to which land scrip may thus be issued be allowed to locate the same within the limits of any other State, or of any Territory of the United States, but their assignees may thus locate said land scrip upon any of the unappropriated lands of the United States subject to sale at private entry at one dollar and twenty-five cents, or less, per acre: *And provided, further,* That not more than one million acres shall be located by such assignees in any one of the States: *And provided, further,* That no such location shall be made before one year from the passage of this act.

**Sec. 3.** *And be it further enacted,* That all expenses of management, superintendence, and taxes from date of selection of said lands, previous to their sales, and all expenses incurred in the management and disbursement of the moneys which may be received therefrom, shall be paid by the States to which they may belong, out of the treasury of said States, so that the entire proceeds of the sale of said lands shall be applied without any diminution whatever to the purposes hereinafter mentioned.

**Sec. 4 [original].** *And be it further enacted,* That all moneys derived from the sale of the lands aforesaid by the States to which the lands are apportioned, and from the sales of land scrip hereinbefore provided for, shall be invested in stocks of the United States, or of the States, or some other safe stocks, yielding not less than five per centum upon the par value of said stocks; and that the moneys so invested shall constitute a perpetual fund, the capital of which shall remain forever undiminished, (except so far as may be provided in section fifth of this act,) and the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated, by each State which may take and claim the benefit of this act, to the endowment, support,

and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.

**Sec. 4 [as amended March 3, 1883 ].** That all moneys derived from the sale of lands aforesaid by the States to which lands are apportioned, and from the sales of lands scrip hereinbefore provided for, shall be invested in stocks of the United States or of the States, or some other safe stocks; or the same may be invested by the States having no State stocks, in any other manner after the legislatures of such States shall have assented thereto, and engaged that such funds shall yield not less than five per centum upon the amount so invested and that the principal thereof shall forever remain unimpaired: *Provided*, That the moneys so invested or loaned shall constitute a perpetual fund, the capital of which shall remain forever undiminished (except so far as may be provided in section five of this act), and the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated, by each State which may take and claim the benefit of this act, to the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college where the leading objects shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.

**Sec. 4. [as amended April 13, 1926].** That all moneys derived from the sale of lands aforesaid by the States to which lands are apportioned and from the sales of land scrip hereinbefore provided for shall be invested in bonds of the United States or of the States or some other safe bonds; or the same may be invested by the States having no State bonds in any manner after the legislatures of such States shall have assented thereto and engaged that such funds shall yield a fair and reasonable rate of return, to be fixed by the State legislatures, and that the principal thereof shall forever remain unimpaired: *Provided*, That the moneys so invested or loaned shall constitute a perpetual fund, the capital of which shall remain forever undiminished (except so far as may be provided in, section 5 of this Act), and the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated, by each State which may take and claim the benefit of this Act, to the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.

**Sec. 5.** *And be it further enacted*, That the grant of land and land scrip hereby authorized shall be made on the following conditions, to which, as well as to the provisions hereinbefore contained, the previous assent of the several States shall be signified by legislative acts:

First. If, any portion of the fund invested, as provided by the foregoing section, or any portion of the interest thereon, shall, by any action or contingency, be diminished or lost, it shall be replaced by the State to which it belongs, so that the capital of the fund shall

remain forever undiminished; and the annual interest shall be regularly applied without diminution to the purposes mentioned in the fourth section of this act, except that a sum, not exceeding ten per centum upon the amount received by any State under the provisions of this act, may be expended for the purchase of lands for sites or experimental farms, whenever authorized by the respective legislatures of said States.

Second. No portion of said fund, nor the interest thereon, shall be applied. directly or indirectly, under any pretense whatever, to the purchase, erection, preservation, or repair of any building or buildings.

Third. Any State which may take and claim the benefit of the provisions of this act shall provide, within five years, at least not less than one college, as described in the fourth section of this act, or the grant to such State shall cease; and said State shall be bound to pay the United States the amount received of any lands previously sold. and that the title to purchasers under the State shall be valid.

Fourth. An annual report shall be made regarding the progress of each college, recording any improvements and experiments made, with their cost and results, and such other matters, including State industrial and economical statistics, as may be supposed useful; one copy of which shall be transmitted by mail free, by each, to all the other colleges which may be endowed under the provisions of this act, and also one copy to the Secretary of the Interior.

Fifth. When lands shall be selected from those which have been raised to double the minimum price, in consequence of railroad grants, they shall be computed to the States at the maximum price, and the number of acres proportionately diminished.

Sixth. No State while in a condition of rebellion or insurrection against the Government of the United States shall be entitled to the benefit of this act.

Seventh. No State shall be entitled to the benefits of this act unless it shall express its acceptance thereof by its legislature within two years from the date of its approval by the President.

**Sec. 6.** *And be it further enacted,* That land scrip issued under the provisions of this act shall not be subject to location until after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three.

**Sec. 7.** *And be it further enacted,* That the land officers shall receive the same fees for locating land scrip issued under the provisions of this act as is now allowed for the location of military bounty land warrants under existing laws; *Provided,* That their maximum compensation shall not be thereby increased.

**Sec. 8.** *And be it further enacted,* That the governors of the several States to which scrip shall be issued under this act shall be required to report annually to Congress all sales made of such scrip until the whole shall be disposed of, the amount received for the same, and what appropriation has been made of the proceeds.

*Approved July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503).*

## **8. Emancipation Proclamation: January 1, 1863**

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be, in good faith, represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief, of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days, from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the Parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth[]), and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

## **9. Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction (1863)**

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

### A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, in and by the Constitution of the United States, it is provided that the President "shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment;" and

Whereas, a rebellion now exists whereby the loyal state governments of several states have for a long time been subverted, and many persons have committed, and are now guilty of, treason against the United States; and

Whereas, with reference to said rebellion and treason, laws have been enacted by congress, declaring forfeitures and confiscation of property and liberation of slaves, all upon terms and conditions therein stated, and also declaring that the President was thereby authorized at any time thereafter, by proclamation, to extend to persons who may have participated in the existing rebellion, in any state or part thereof, pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions and at such times and on such conditions as he may deem expedient for the public welfare; and

Whereas, the congressional declaration for limited and conditional pardon accords with well-established judicial exposition of the pardoning power; and

Whereas, with reference to said rebellion, the President of the United States has issued several proclamations, with provisions in regard to the liberation of slaves; and

Whereas, it is now desired by some persons heretofore engaged in said rebellion to resume their allegiance to the United States, and to reinaugurate loyal state governments within and for their respective states: Therefore—

I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, do proclaim, declare, and make known to all persons who have, directly or by implication, participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, that a full pardon is hereby granted to them and each of them, with restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves, and in property cases where rights of third parties shall have intervened, and upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an oath, and thenceforward keep and maintain said oath inviolate; and which oath shall be registered for permanent preservation, and shall be of the tenor and effect following, to wit:—

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all acts of congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void by congress, or by decision of the supreme court; and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the supreme court. So help me God."

The persons excepted from the benefits of the foregoing provisions are all who are, or shall have been, civil or diplomatic officers or agents of the so-called Confederate government; all who have left judicial stations under the United States to aid the rebellion; all who are, or shall have been, military or naval officers of said so-called Confederate government above the rank of colonel in the army or of lieutenant in the navy; all who left seats in the United States congress to aid the rebellion; all who resigned commissions in the army or navy of the United States and afterwards aided the rebellion; and all who have engaged in any way in treating colored persons, or white persons in charge of such, otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war, and which persons may have been found in the United States service as soldiers, seamen, or in any other capacity.

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known that whenever, in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina, a number of persons, not less than one tenth in number of the votes cast in such state at the presidential election of the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, each having taken the oath aforesaid, and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election law of the state existing immediately before the so-called act of secession, and excluding all others, shall reestablish a state government which shall be republican, and in nowise contravening said oath, such shall be recognized as the true government of the state, and the state shall receive thereunder the benefits of the constitutional provision which declares that "the United States shall guaranty to every state in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or the executive, (when the legislature cannot be convened,) against domestic violence."

And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known that any provision which may be adopted by such state government in relation to the freed people of such state, which shall recognize and declare their permanent freedom, provide for their education, and which may yet be consistent as a temporary arrangement with their present condition as a laboring, landless, and homeless class, will not be objected to by the National Executive.

And it is suggested as not improper that, in constructing a loyal state government in any state, the name of the state, the boundary, the subdivisions, the constitution, and the general code of laws, as before the rebellion, be maintained, subject only to the modifications made necessary by the conditions hereinbefore stated, and such others, if any, not contravening said conditions, and which may be deemed expedient by those framing the new state government.

To avoid misunderstanding, it may be proper to say that this proclamation, so far as it relates to state governments, has no reference to states wherein loyal state governments have all the while been maintained. And, for the same reason, it may be proper to further say, that whether members sent to congress from any state shall be admitted to seats constitutionally rests exclusively with the respective houses, and not to any extent with the Executive. And still further, that this proclamation is intended to present the people of the states wherein the national authority has been suspended, and loyal state governments have been subverted, a mode in and by which the national authority and loyal state governments may be reestablished within said states, or in any of them; and while the mode presented is the best the Executive can suggest, with his present impressions, it must not be understood that no other possible mode would be acceptable.

Given under my hand at the city of Washington the eighth day of December, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-eighth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State*.

## **10. Wade-Davis Bill (1864)**

### ***A Bill to guarantee to certain States whose Governments have been usurped or overthrown a Republican Form of Government.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in the states declared in rebellion against the United States, the President shall, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint for each a provisional governor, whose pay and emoluments shall not exceed that of a brigadier general of volunteers, who shall be charged with the civil administration of such state until a state government therein shall be recognized as hereinafter provided.

**SEC. 2.** And be it further enacted, That so soon as the military resistance to the United States shall have been suppressed in any such state, and the people thereof shall have sufficiently returned to their obedience to the constitution and the laws of the United States, the provisional governor shall direct the marshal of the United States, as speedily as may be, to name a sufficient number of deputies, and to enroll all white male citizens of the United States, resident in the state in their respective counties, and to request each one to take the oath to support the constitution of the United States, and in his enrolment to designate those who take and those who refuse to take that oath, which rolls shall be forthwith returned to the provisional governor; and if the persons taking that oath shall amount to a majority of the persons enrolled in the state, he shall, by proclamation, invite the loyal people of the state to elect delegates to a convention charged to declare the will of the people of the state relative to the reestablishment of a state government subject to, and in conformity with, the constitution of the United States.

**SEC. 3.** And be it further enacted, That the convention shall consist of as many members as both houses of the last constitutional state legislature, apportioned by the provisional governor among the counties, parishes, or districts of the state, in proportion to the white population, returned as electors, by the marshal, in compliance with the provisions of this act. The provisional governor shall, by proclamation, declare the number of delegates to be elected by each county, parish, or election district; name a day of election not less than thirty days thereafter; designate the places of voting in each county, parish, or district, conforming as nearly as may be convenient to the places used in the state elections next preceding the rebellion; appoint one or more commissioners to hold the election at each place of voting, and provide an adequate force to keep the peace during the election.

**SEC. 4.** And be it further enacted, That the delegates shall be elected by the loyal white male citizens of the United States of the age of twenty-one years, and resident at the time in the county, parish, or district in which they shall offer to vote, and enrolled as aforesaid, or absent in the military service of the United States, and who shall take and subscribe the oath of allegiance to the United States in the form contained in the act of congress of July two, eighteen hundred and sixty-two; and all such citizens of the United States who are in the military service of the United States shall vote at the head-quarters of their respective commands, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the provisional governor for the taking and return of their votes; but no person who has held or exercised any office, civil or military, state or confederate, under the rebel usurpation, or

who has voluntarily borne arms against the United States, shall vote, or be eligible to be elected as delegate, at such election.

**SEC. 5.** And be it further enacted, That the said commissioners, or either of them, shall hold the election in conformity with this act, and, so far as may be consistent therewith, shall proceed in the manner used in the state prior to the rebellion. The oath of allegiance shall be taken and subscribed on the poll-book by every voter in the form above prescribed, but every person known by or proved to, the commissioners to have held or exercised any office, civil or military, state or confederate, under the rebel usurpation, or to have voluntarily borne arms against the United States, shall be excluded, though he offer to take the oath ; and in case any person who shall have borne arms against the United States shall offer to vote he shall be deemed to have borne arms voluntarily unless he shall prove the contrary by the testimony of a qualified voter. The poll-book, showing the name and oath of each voter, shall be returned to the provisional governor by the commissioners of election or the one acting, and the provisional governor shall canvass such returns, and declare the person having the highest number of votes elected.

**SEC. 6.** And be it further enacted, That the provisional governor shall, by proclamation, convene the delegates elected as aforesaid, at the capital of the state, on a day not more than three months after the election, giving at least thirty days' notice of such day. In case the said capital shall in his judgment be unfit, he shall in his proclamation appoint another place. He shall preside over the deliberations of the convention, and administer to each delegate, before taking his seat in the convention, the oath of allegiance to the United States in the form above prescribed.

**SEC. 7.** And be it further enacted, That the convention shall declare, on behalf of the people of the state, their submission to the constitution and laws of the United States, and shall adopt the following provisions, hereby prescribed by the United States in the execution of the constitutional duty to guarantee a republican form of government to every state, and incorporate them in the constitution of the state, that is to say:

First. No person who has held or exercised any office, civil or military, except offices merely ministerial, and military offices below the grade of colonel, state or confederate, under the usurping power, shall vote for or be a member of the legislature, or governor.

Second. Involuntary servitude is forever prohibited, and the freedom of all persons is guaranteed in said state.

Third. No debt, state or confederate, created by or under the sanction of the usurping power, shall be recognized or paid by the state.

**SEC. 8.** And be it further enacted, That when the convention shall have adopted those provisions, it shall proceed to re-establish a republican form of government, and ordain a constitution containing those provisions, which, when adopted the convention shall by ordinance provide for submitting to the people of the state, entitled to vote under this law, at an election to be held in the manner prescribed by the act for the election of delegates; but at a time and place named by the convention, at which election the said electors, and none others, shall vote directly for or against such constitution and form of state government, and the returns of said election shall be made to the provisional governor,

who shall canvass the same in the presence of the electors, and if a majority of the votes cast shall be for the constitution and form of government, he shall certify the same, with a copy thereof, to the President of the United States, who, after obtaining the assent of congress, shall, by proclamation, recognize the government so established, and none other, as the constitutional government of the state, and from the date of such recognition, and not before, Senators and Representatives, and electors for President and Vice President may be elected in such state, according to the laws of the state and of the United States.

**SEC. 9.** And be it further enacted, That if the convention shall refuse to reestablish the state government on the conditions aforesaid, the provisional governor shall declare it dissolved; but it shall be the duty of the President, whenever he shall have reason to believe that a sufficient number of the people of the state entitled to vote under this act, in number not less than a majority of those enrolled, as aforesaid, are willing to reestablish a state government on the conditions aforesaid, to direct the provisional governor to order another election of delegates to a convention for the purpose and in the manner prescribed in this act, and to proceed in all respects as hereinbefore provided, either to dissolve the convention, or to certify the state government reestablished by it to the President.

**SEC. 10.** And be it further enacted, That, until the United States shall have recognized a republican form of state government, the provisional governor in each of said states shall see that this act, and the laws of the United States, and the laws of the state in force when the state government was overthrown by the rebellion, are faithfully executed within the state; but no law or usage whereby any person was heretofore held in involuntary servitude shall be recognized or enforced by any court or officer in such state, and the laws for the trial and punishment of white persons shall extend to all persons, and jurors shall have the qualifications of voters under this law for delegates to the convention. The President shall appoint such officers provided for by the laws of the state when its government was overthrown as he may find necessary to the civil administration of the state, all which officers shall be entitled to receive the fees and emoluments provided by the state laws for such officers.

**SEC. 11.** And be it further enacted, That until the recognition of a state government as aforesaid, the provisional governor shall, under such regulations as he may prescribe, cause to be assessed, levied, and collected, for the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and every year thereafter, the taxes provided by the laws of such state to be levied during the fiscal year preceding the overthrow of the state government thereof, in the manner prescribed by the laws of the state, as nearly as may be; and the officers appointed, as aforesaid, are vested with all powers of levying and collecting such taxes, by distress or sale, as were vested in any officers or tribunal of the state government aforesaid for those purposes. The proceeds of such taxes shall be accounted for to the provisional governor, and be by him applied to the expenses of the administration of the laws in such state, subject to the direction of the President, and the surplus shall be deposited in the treasury of the United States to the credit of such state, to be paid to the state upon an

appropriation therefore, to be made when a republican form of government shall be recognized therein by the United States.

**SEC. 12.** And be it further enacted, that all persons held to involuntary servitude or labor in the states aforesaid are hereby emancipated and discharged therefrom, and they and their posterity shall be forever free. And if any such persons or their posterity shall be restrained of liberty, under pretence of any claim to such service or labor, the courts of the United States shall, on habeas corpus, discharge them.

**SEC. 13.** And be it further enacted, That if any person declared free by this act, or any law of the United States, or any proclamation of the President, be restrained of liberty, with intent to be held in or reduced to involuntary servitude or labor, the person convicted before a court of competent jurisdiction of such act shall be punished by fine of not less than fifteen hundred dollars, and be imprisoned not less than five nor more than twenty years.

**SEC. 14.** And be it further enacted, That every person who shall hereafter hold or exercise any office, civil or military, except offices merely ministerial, and military offices below the grade of colonel, in the rebel service, state or confederate, is hereby declared not to be a citizen of the United States.

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:  
A PROCLAMATION:**

WHEREAS, at the late session, congress passed a bill to "guarantee to certain states, whose governments have been usurped or overthrown, a republican form of government, " a copy of which is hereunto annexed;

And whereas the said bill was presented to the President of the United States for his approval less than one hour before the sine die adjournment of said session, and was not signed by him;

And whereas the said bill contains, among other things, a plan for restoring the states in rebellion to their proper practical relation in the Union, which plan expresses the sense of congress upon that subject, and which plan it is now thought fit to lay before the people for their consideration;

Now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, do proclaim, declare, and make known, that, while I am (as I was in December last, when by proclamation I propounded a plan for restoration) unprepared by a formal approval of this bill, to be inflexibly committed to any single plan of restoration; and, while I am also unprepared to declare that the free state constitutions and governments already adopted and installed in Arkansas and Louisiana shall be set aside and held for nought, thereby repelling and discouraging the loyal citizens who have set up the same as to further effort, or to declare a constitutional competency in congress to abolish slavery in states, but am at the same time sincerely hoping and expecting that a constitutional amendment

abolishing slavery throughout the nation may be adopted, nevertheless I am truly satisfied with the system for restoration contained in the bill as one very proper plan for the loyal people of any state choosing to adopt it, and that I am, and at all times shall be, prepared to give the executive aid and assistance to any such people, so soon as the military resistance to the United States shall have been suppressed in any such state, and the people thereof shall have sufficiently returned to their obedience to the constitution and the laws of the United States, in which cases military governors will be appointed, with directions to proceed according to the bill.

In testimony whereof; I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this eighth day of July, in the year of our [L S.] Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-ninth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President :

WILLIAH H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

## **11. General William Tecumseh Sherman's Field Order No. 15 (1865)**

(popularly known as "Forty acres and a mule")

Special Field Order No. 15  
William Tecumseh Sherman  
January 16, 1865

1. The islands from Charleston south, the abandoned rice-fields along the rivers for thirty miles back from the sea, and the country bordering the St. John's River, Florida, are reserved and set apart for the settlement of the negroes now made free by the acts of war and the [Emancipation] proclamation of the President of the United States.
2. At Beaufort, Hilton Head, Savannah, Fernandina, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville, the blacks may remain in their chosen or accustomed vocations; but on the islands, and in the settlements hereafter to be established no white person whatever, unless military officers and soldiers detailed for duty, will be permitted to reside; and the sole and exclusive management of affairs will be left to the freed people themselves, subject only to the United States military authority, and the acts of Congress. By the laws of war, and orders of the President of the United States, the negro is free, and must be dealt with as such. He cannot be subjected to conscription, or forced military service, save by the written orders of the highest military authority of the [War] department, under such regulations as the President or Congress may prescribe. Domestic servants, blacksmiths, carpenters, and other mechanics, will be free to select their own work and residence, but the young and able-bodied negroes must be encouraged to enlist as soldiers in the service of the United States, to contribute their share toward maintaining their own freedom, and securing their rights as citizens of the United States.

Negroes so enlisted will be organized into companies, battalions, and regiments, under the orders of the United States military authorities, and will be paid, fed, and clothed, according to law. The bounties paid on enlistment may, with the consent of the recruit, go to assist his family and settlement in procuring agricultural implements, seed, tools, boots, clothing, and other articles necessary for their livelihood.
3. Whenever three respectable negroes, heads of families, shall desire to settle on land, and shall have selected for that purpose an island or a locality clearly defined within the limits above designated, the Inspector of Settlements and Plantations will himself, or by such subordinate officer as he may appoint, give them a license to settle such island or district and afford them such assistance as he can to enable them to establish a peaceable agricultural settlement. The three parties named will subdivide the land, under the supervision of the inspector, among themselves, and such others as may choose to settle near them, so that each family shall have a plot of not more than forty acres of tillable ground, and, when it borders on some water-channel, with not more than eight hundred feet water-front, in the possession of which land the military authorities will afford them protection until such time as they can protect themselves, or until Congress shall regulate their title. The quartermaster may, on the requisition of the Inspector of Settlements and Plantations, place at the disposal of the inspector one or more of the captured steamers to ply between the settlements and one or more of the commercial points heretofore named, in order to afford the settlers the opportunity to supply their necessary wants, and to sell the products of their land and labor.

4. Whenever a negro has enlisted in the military service of the United States, he may locate his family in any one of the settlements at pleasure, and acquire a homestead, and all other rights and privileges of a settler, as though present in person. In like manner, negroes may settle their families and engage on board the gunboats, or in fishing, or in the navigation of the inland waters, without losing any claim to land or other advantages derived from this system. But no one, unless an actual settler as above defined, or unless absent on Government service, will be entitled to claim any right to land or property in any settlement by virtue of these orders.

5. In order to carry out this system of settlement, a general officer will be detailed as Inspector of Settlements and plantations whose duty it shall be to visit the settlements, to regulate their police and general arrangement, and who will furnish personally to each head of a family, subject to the approval of the President of the United States, a possessory title in writing, giving as near as possible the description of boundaries; and who shall adjust all claims or conflicts that may arise under the same, subject to the like approval, treating such titles altogether as possessory. The same general officer will also be charged with the enlistment and organization of the negro recruits, and protecting their interests while absent from their settlements; and will be governed by the rules and regulations prescribed by the War Department for such purposes.

6. Brigadier-General R. Saxton is hereby appointed Inspector of Settlements and Plantations, and will at once enter on the performance of his duties. No change is intended or desired in the settlement now on Beaufort Island, nor will any rights to property heretofore acquired be affected thereby.

By order of Major-General W. T. Sherman,  
L. M. Dayton, Assistant Adjutant-General.

## **12. Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution (1865)**

### **Amendment XIII.**

**Section 1.** Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

**Section 2.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

### **13. President Andrew Johnson: Amnesty Proclamation (1865)**

#### **Proclamation of Amnesty and Pardon for the Confederate States**

*Whereas*, the President of the United States, on the 8th day of December, 1863, and on the 26th day of March, 1864, did, with the object to suppress the existing rebellion, to induce all persons to return to their loyalty, and to restore the authority of the United States, issue proclamations offering amnesty and pardon to certain persons who had, directly or by Implication, participated in the said rebellion; and

*Whereas*, many persons who had so engaged in said rebellion have, since the issuance of said proclamations, failed or neglected to take the benefits offered thereby; and

*Whereas*, many persons who have been justly deprived of all claim to amnesty and pardon thereunder by reason of their participation, directly or by implication, in said rebellion and continued hostility to the government of the United States since the date of said proclamations, now desire to apply for and obtain amnesty and pardon.

To the end, therefore, that the authority of the government of the United States may be restored and that peace, order, and freedom may be established, I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do proclaim and declare that I hereby grant to all persons who have, directly or indirectly, participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, amnesty and pardon, with restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves and except in cases where legal proceedings under the laws of the United States providing for the confiscation of property of persons engaged in rebellion have been instituted; but upon the condition, nevertheless, that every such person shall take and subscribe the following oath (or affirmation) and thenceforward keep and maintain said oath inviolate, and which oath shall be registered for permanent preservation and shall be of the tenor and effect following, to wit:

I \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly swear (or affirm); in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder, and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves. So help me God.

The following classes of persons are excepted from the benefits of this proclamation:

First, all who are or shall have been pretended civil or diplomatic officers or otherwise domestic or foreign agents of the pretended Confederate Government.

Second, all who left judicial stations under the United States to aid the rebellion.

Third, all who shall have been military or naval officers of said pretended Confederate government above the rank of colonel in the army or lieutenant in the navy.

Fourth, all who left seats in the Congress of the United States to aid the rebellion.

Fifth, all who resigned or tendered resignations of their commissions in the Army or Navy of the United States to evade duty in resisting the rebellion.

Sixth, all who have engaged in any way in treating otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war persons found in the United States service as officers, soldiers, seamen, or in other capacities.

Seventh, all persons who have been or are absentees from the United States for the purpose of aiding the rebellion.

Eighth, all military and naval officers in the Rebel service who were educated by the government in the Military Academy at West Point or the United States Naval Academy.

Ninth, all persons who held the pretended offices of governors of states in insurrection against the United States.

Tenth, all persons who left their homes thin the jurisdiction and protection of the United States and passed beyond the Federal in military lines into the pretended Confederate States for the purpose of aiding the rebellion.

Eleventh, all persons who have been engaged in the destruction of the commerce of the United States upon the high seas and all persons who have made raids into the United States from Canada or been engaged in destroying the commerce of the United States upon the lakes and rivers that separate the British Provinces from the United States.

Twelfth, all persons who, at the time when they seek to obtain the benefits hereof by taking the oath herein prescribed, are in military naval, or civil confinement or custody, or under bonds of the civil, military, or naval authorities, or agents of the United States as prisoners of war, or persons detained for offenses of any kind, either before or after conviction.

Thirteenth, all persons who have voluntarily participated in said rebellion and the estimated value of whose taxable property is over 520,000.

Fourteenth, all persons who have taken the oath of amnesty as prescribed in the President's Proclamation of December 8, 1863, Or an oath of allegiance to the government 'of the United States since the date of said proclamation and who have not thenceforward kept and maintained the same inviolate.

Provided, that special application may be made to the President for pardon by any person belonging, to the excepted classes, and such clemency will be liberally extended as may be consistent with the facts of the case and the peace and dignity of the United States.

The secretary of state will establish rules and regulations for administering, and recording the said amnesty oath, so as to insure its benefit to the people and guard the government against fraud.

## **14. Mississippi's "Black Codes" (1865)**

### **An Act to Confer Civil Rights on Freedmen, and for other Purposes**

**Section 1.** All freedmen, free negroes and mulattoes may sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, in all the courts of law and equity of this State, and may acquire personal property, and chooses in action, by descent or purchase, and may dispose of the same in the same manner and to the same extent that white persons may: Provided, That the provisions of this section shall not be so construed as to allow any freedman, free negro or mulatto to rent or lease any lands or tenements except in incorporated cities or towns, in which places the corporate authorities shall control the same.

**Section 2.** All freedmen, free negroes and mulattoes may intermarry with each other, in the same manner and under the same regulations that are provided by law for white persons: Provided, that the clerk of probate shall keep separate records of the same.

**Section 3.** All freedmen, free negroes or mullatoes who do now and have herebefore lived and cohabited together as husband and wife shall be taken and held in law as legally married, and the issue shall be taken and held as legitimate for all purposes; and it shall not be lawful for any freedman, free negro or mulatto to intermarry with any white person; nor for any person to intermarry with any freedman, free negro or mulatto; and any person who shall so intermarry shall be deemed guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof shall be confined in the State penitentiary for life; and those shall be deemed freedmen, free negroes and mulattoes who are of pure negro blood, and those descended from a negro to the third generation, inclusive, though one ancestor in each generation may have been a white person.

**Section 4.** In addition to cases in which freedmen, free negroes and mulattoes are now by law competent witnesses, freedmen, free negroes or mulattoes shall be competent in civil cases, when a party or parties to the suit, either plaintiff or plaintiffs, defendant or defendants; also in cases where freedmen, free negroes and mulattoes is or are either plaintiff or plaintiffs, defendant or defendants. They shall also be competent witnesses in all criminal prosecutions where the crime charged is alleged to have been committed by a white person upon or against the person or property of a freedman, free negro or mulatto: Provided, that in all cases said witnesses shall be examined in open court, on the stand; except, however, they may be examined before the grand jury, and shall in all cases be subject to the rules and tests of the common law as to competency and credibility.

**Section 5.** Every freedman, free negro and mulatto shall, on the second Monday of January, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, and annually thereafter, have a lawful home or employment, and shall have written evidence thereof as follows, to wit: if living in any incorporated city, town, or village, a license from that mayor thereof; and if living outside of an incorporated city, town, or village, from the member of the board of police of his beat, authorizing him or her to do irregular and job work; or a written contract, as provided in Section 6 in this act; which license may be revoked for cause at any time by the authority granting the same.

**Section 6.** All contracts for labor made with freedmen, free negroes and mulattoes for a longer period than one month shall be in writing, and a duplicate, attested and read to said

freedman, free negro or mulatto by a beat, city or county officer, or two disinterested white persons of the county in which the labor is to be performed, of which each party shall have one: and said contracts shall be taken and held as entire contracts, and if the laborer shall quit the service of the employer before the expiration of his term of service, without good cause, he shall forfeit his wages for that year up to the time of quitting.

**Section 7.** Every civil officer shall, and every person may, arrest and carry back to his or her legal employer any freedman, free negro, or mulatto who shall have quit the service of his or her employer before the expiration of his or her term of service without good cause; and said officer and person shall be entitled to receive for arresting and carrying back every deserting employee aforesaid the sum of five dollars, and ten cents per mile from the place of arrest to the place of delivery; and the same shall be paid by the employer, and held as a set off for so much against the wages of said deserting employee: Provided, that said arrested party, after being so returned, may appeal to the justice of the peace or member of the board of police of the county, who, on notice to the alleged employer, shall try summarily whether said appellant is legally employed by the alleged employer, and has good cause to quit said employer. Either party shall have the right of appeal to the county court, pending which the alleged deserter shall be remanded to the alleged employer or otherwise disposed of, as shall be right and just; and the decision of the county court shall be final.

**Section 8.** Upon affidavit made by the employer of any freedman, free negro or mulatto, or other credible person, before any justice of the peace or member of the board of police, that any freedman, free negro or mulatto legally employed by said employer has illegally deserted said employment, such justice of the peace or member of the board of police issue his warrant or warrants, returnable before himself or other such officer, to any sheriff, constable or special deputy, commanding him to arrest said deserter, and return him or her to said employer, and the like proceedings shall be had as provided in the preceding section; and it shall be lawful for any officer to whom such warrant shall be directed to execute said warrant in any county in this State; and that said warrant may be transmitted without endorsement to any like officer of another county, to be executed and returned as aforesaid; and the said employer shall pay the costs of said warrants and arrest and return, which shall be set off for so much against the wages of said deserter.

**Section 9.** If any person shall persuade or attempt to persuade, entice, or cause any freedman, free negro or mulatto to desert from the legal employment of any person before the expiration of his or her term of service, or shall knowingly employ any such deserting freedman, free negro or mulatto, or shall knowingly give or sell to any such deserting freedman, free negro or mulatto, any food, raiment, or other thing, he or she shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars and not more than two hundred dollars and costs; and if the said fine and costs shall not be immediately paid, the court shall sentence said convict to not exceeding two months imprisonment in the county jail, and he or she shall moreover be liable to the party injured in damages: Provided, if any person shall, or shall attempt to, persuade, entice, or cause any freedman, free negro or mulatto to desert from any legal employment of any person, with the view to employ said freedman, free negro or mulatto without the limits of this State, such costs; and if said fine and costs shall not be immediately paid, the court shall sentence said convict to not exceeding six months imprisonment in the county jail.

**Section 10.** It shall be lawful for any freedman, free negro, or mulatto, to charge any white person, freedman, free negro or mulatto by affidavit, with any criminal offense against his or her person or property, and upon such affidavit the proper process shall be issued and executed as if said affidavit was made by a white person, and it shall be lawful for any freedman, free negro, or mulatto, in any action, suit or controversy pending, or about to be instituted in any court of law equity in this State, to make all needful and lawful affidavits as shall be necessary for the institution, prosecution or defense of such suit or controversy.

**Section 11.** The penal laws of this state, in all cases not otherwise specially provided for, shall apply and extend to all freedman, free negroes and mulattoes...

### **An Act to Regulate the Relation of Master and Apprentice, as Relates to Freedmen, Free Negroes, and Mulattoes**

**Section 1.** It shall be the duty of all sheriffs, justices of the peace, and other civil officers of the several counties in this State, to report to the probate courts of their respective counties semiannually, at the January and July terms of said courts, all freedmen, free negroes, and mulattoes, under the age of eighteen, in their respective counties, beats, or districts, who are orphans, or whose parent or parents have not the means or who refuse to provide for and support said minors; and thereupon it shall be the duty of said probate court to order the clerk of said court to apprentice said minors to some competent and suitable person on such terms as the court may direct, having a particular care to the interest of said minor: Provided, that the former owner of said minors shall have the preference when, in the opinion of the court, he or she shall be a suitable person for that purpose.

**Section 2.** The said court shall be fully satisfied that the person or persons to whom said minor shall be apprenticed shall be a suitable person to have the charge and care of said minor, and fully to protect the interest of said minor. The said court shall require the said master or mistress to execute bond and security, payable to the State of Mississippi, conditioned that he or she shall furnish said minor with sufficient food and clothing; to treat said minor humanely; furnish medical attention in case of sickness; teach, or cause to be taught, him or her to read and write, if under fifteen years old, and will conform to any law that may be hereafter passed for the regulation of the duties and relation of master and apprentice: Provided, that said apprentice shall be bound by indenture, in case of males, until they are twenty-one years old, and in case of females until they are eighteen years old.

**Section 3.** In the management and control of said apprentices, said master or mistress shall have the power to inflict such moderate corporeal chastisement as a father or guardian is allowed to infliction on his or her child or ward at common law: Provided, that in no case shall cruel or inhuman punishment be inflicted.

**Section 4.** If any apprentice shall leave the employment of his or her master or mistress, without his or her consent, said master or mistress may pursue and recapture said apprentice, and bring him or her before any justice of the peace of the county, whose duty it shall be to remand said apprentice to the service of his or her master or mistress; and in

the event of a refusal on the part of said apprentice so to return, then said justice shall commit said apprentice to the jail of said county, on failure to give bond, to the next term of the county court; and it shall be the duty of said court at the first term thereafter to investigate said case, and if the court shall be of opinion that said apprentice left the employment of his or her master or mistress without good cause, to order him or her to be punished, as provided for the punishment of hired freedmen, as may be from time to time provided for by law for desertion, until he or she shall agree to return to the service of his or her master or mistress: Provided, that the court may grant continuances as in other cases: And provided further, that if the court shall believe that said apprentice had good cause to quit his said master or mistress, the court shall discharge said apprentice from said indenture, and also enter a judgment against the master or mistress for not more than one hundred dollars, from the use and benefit of said apprentice, to be collected on execution as in other cases.

**Section 5.** If any person entice away any apprentice from his or her master or mistress, or shall knowingly employ an apprentice, or furnish him or her food or clothing without the written consent of his or her master or mistress, or shall sell or give said apprentice spirits without such consent, said person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction thereof before the county court, be punished as provided for the punishment of person enticing from their employer hired freedmen, free negroes or mulattoes.

**Section 6.** It shall be the duty of all civil officers of their respective counties to report any minors within their respective counties to said probate court who are subject to be apprenticed under the provisions of this act, from time to time as the facts may come to their knowledge, and it shall be the duty of said court from time to time as said minors shall be reported to them, or otherwise come to their knowledge, to apprentice said minors as hereinbefore provided.

**Section 9.** It shall be lawful for any freedman, free negro, or mulatto, having a minor child or children, as provided for by this act.

**Section 10.** In all cases where the age of the freedman, free negro, or mulatto cannot be ascertained by record testimony, the judge of the county court shall fix the age....

### **An Act to Amend the Vagrant Laws of the State**

**Section 1.** All rogues and vagabonds, idle and dissipated persons, beggars, jugglers, or persons practicing unlawful games or plays, runaways, common drunkards, common night-walkers, pilferers, lewd, wanton, or lascivious persons, in speech or behavior, common railers and brawlers, persons who neglect their calling or employment, mispend what they earn, or do not provide for the support of themselves or their families, or dependents, and all other idle and disorderly persons, including all who neglect all lawful business, habitually mispend their time by frequenting houses of ill-fame, gaming-houses, or tippling shops, shall be deemed and considered vagrants, under the provisions of this act, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not exceeding one hundred dollars,

with all accruing costs, and be imprisoned, at the discretion of the court, not exceeding ten days.

**Section 2.** All freedmen, free negroes and mulattoes in this State, over the age of eighteen years, found on the second Monday in January, 1866, or thereafter, with no lawful employment or business, or found unlawful assembling themselves together, either in the day or night time, and all white persons assembling themselves with freedmen, Free negroes or mulattoes, or usually associating with freedmen, free negroes or mulattoes, on terms of equality, or living in adultery or fornication with a freed woman, freed negro or mulatto, shall be deemed vagrants, and on conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not exceeding, in the case of a freedman, free negro or mulatto, fifty dollars, and a white man two hundred dollars, and imprisonment at the discretion of the court, the free negro not exceeding ten days, and the white man not exceeding six months.

**Section 3.** All justices of the peace, mayors, and aldermen of incorporated towns, counties, and cities of the several counties in this State shall have jurisdiction to try all questions of vagrancy in their respective towns, counties, and cities, and it is hereby made their duty, whenever they shall ascertain that any person or persons in their respective towns, and counties and cities are violating any of the provisions of this act, to have said party or parties arrested, and brought before them, and immediately investigate said charge, and, on conviction, punish said party or parties, as provided for herein. And it is hereby made the duty of all sheriffs, constables, town constables, and all such like officers, and city marshals, to report to some officer having jurisdiction all violations of any of the provisions of this act, and in case any officer shall fail or neglect any duty herein it shall be the duty of the county court to fine said officer, upon conviction, not exceeding one hundred dollars, to be paid into the county treasury for county purposes.

**Section 4.** Keepers of gaming houses, houses of prostitution, prostitutes, public or private, and all persons who derive their chief support in the employment's that militate against good morals, or against law, shall be deemed and held to be vagrants.

**Section 5.** All fines and forfeitures collected by the provisions of this act shall be paid into the county treasury of general county purposes, and in case of any freedman, free negro or mulatto shall fail for five days after the imposition of any or forfeiture upon him or her for violation of any of the provisions of this act to pay the same, that it shall be, and is hereby, made the duty of the sheriff of the proper county to hire out said freedman, free negro or mulatto, to any person who will, for the shortest period of service, pay said fine and forfeiture and all costs: Provided, a preference shall be given to the employer, if there be one, in which case the employer shall be entitled to deduct and retain the amount so paid from the wages of such freedman, free negro or mulatto, then due or to become due; and in case freedman, free negro or mulatto cannot hire out, he or she may be dealt with as a pauper.

**Section 6.** The same duties and liabilities existing among white persons of this State shall attach to freedmen, free negroes or mulattoes, to support their indigent families and all colored paupers; and that in order to secure a support for such indigent freedmen, free negroes, or mulattoes, it shall be lawful, and is hereby made the duty of the county police of each county in this State, to levy a poll or capitation tax on each and every freedman, free negro, or mulatto, between the ages of eighteen and sixty years, not to exceed the

sum of one dollar annually to each person so taxed, which tax, when collected, shall be paid into the county treasurer's hands, and constitute a fund to be called the Freedman's Pauper Fund, which shall be applied by the commissioners of the poor for the maintenance of the poor of the freedmen, free negroes and mulattoes of this State, under such regulations as may be established by the boards of county police in the respective counties of this State.

**Section 7.** If any freedman, free negro, or mulatto shall fail or refuse to pay any tax levied according to the provisions of the sixth section of this act, it shall be *prima facie* evidence of vagrancy, and it shall be the duty of the sheriff to arrest such freedman, free negro, or mulatto, or such person refusing or neglecting to pay such tax, and proceed at once to hire for the shortest time such delinquent taxpayer to any one who will pay the said tax, with accruing costs, giving preference to the employer, if there be one.

**Section 8.** Any person feeling himself or herself aggrieved by judgment of any justice of the peace, mayor, or alderman in cases arising under this act, may within five days appeal to the next term of the county court of the proper county, upon giving bond and security in a sum not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred and fifty dollars, conditioned to appear and prosecute said appeal, and abide by the judgment of the county court; and said appeal shall be tried *de novo* in the county court, and the decision of the said court shall be final.

## **15. Civil Rights Act of 1866**

Act of April 9, 1866

**An Act to protect all Persons in the United States in their Civil Rights, and furnish the Means of their Vindication.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all persons born in the United States and not subject to any foreign power, excluding Indians not taxed, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States; and such citizens, of every race and color, without regard to any previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall have the same right, in every State and Territory in the United States, to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, and give evidence, to inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property, and to full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and property, as is enjoyed by white citizens, and shall be subject to like punishment, pains, and penalties, and to none other, any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

**Sec. 2.** And be it further enacted, That any person who, under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, shall subject, or cause to be subjected, any inhabitant of any State or Territory to the deprivation of any right secured or protected by this act, or to different punishment, pains, or penalties on account of such person having at any time been held in a condition of slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, or by reason of his color or race, than is prescribed for the punishment of white persons, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction, shall be punished by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both, in the discretion of the court.

**Sec. 3.** And be it further enacted, That the district courts of the United States, within their respective districts, shall have, exclusively of the courts of the several States, cognizance of all crimes and offences committed against the provisions of this act, and also, concurrently with the circuit courts of the United States, of all causes, civil and criminal, affecting persons who are denied or cannot enforce in the courts or judicial tribunals of the State or locality where they may be any of the rights secured to them by the first section of this act; and if any suit or prosecution, civil or criminal, has been or shall be commenced in any State court, against any such person, for any cause whatsoever, or against any officer, civil or military, or other person, for any arrest or imprisonment, trespasses, or wrongs done or committed by virtue or under color of authority derived from this act or the act establishing a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen and Refugees, and all acts amendatory thereof, or for refusing to do any act upon the ground that it would be inconsistent with this act, such defendant shall have the right to remove such cause for trial to the proper district or circuit court in the manner prescribed by the "Act relating to habeas corpus and regulating judicial proceedings in certain cases," approved March three, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and all act amendatory thereof. The jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters hereby conferred on the district and circuit courts of the United States shall be exercised and enforced in conformity with the laws of the United States, so far as such laws are suitable to carry the same into effect; but in all

cases where such laws are not adapted to the object, or are deficient in the provisions necessary to furnish suitable remedies and punish offences against law, the common law, as modified and changed by the constitution and statutes of the State wherein the court having jurisdiction of the cause, civil or criminal, is held, so far as the same is not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States, shall be extended to and govern said courts in the trial and disposition of such cause, and, if of a criminal nature, in the infliction of punishment on the party found guilty.

**Sec. 4.** And be it further enacted, That the district attorneys, marshals, and deputy marshals of the United States, the commissioners appointed by the circuit and territorial courts of the United States, with powers of arresting, imprisoning, or bailing offenders against the laws of the United States, the officers and agents of the Freedmen's Bureau, and every other officer who may be specially empowered by the President of the United States, shall be, and they are hereby, specially authorized and required, at the expense of the United States, to institute proceedings against all and every person who shall violate the provisions of this act, and cause him or them to be arrested and imprisoned, or bailed, as the case may be, for trial before such court of the United States or territorial court as by this act has cognizance of the offence. And with a view to affording reasonable protection to all persons in their constitutional rights of equality before the law, without distinction of race or color, or previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, and to the prompt discharge of the duties of this act, it shall be the duty of the circuit courts of the United States and the superior courts of the Territories of the United States, from time to time, to increase the number of commissioners, so as to afford a speedy and convenient means for the arrest and examination of persons charged with a violation of this act; and such commissioners are hereby authorized and required to exercise and discharge all the powers and duties conferred on them by this act, and the same duties with regard to offences created by this act, as they are authorized by law to exercise with regard to other offences against the laws of the United States.

**Sec. 5.** And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of all marshals and deputy marshals to obey and execute all warrants and precepts issued under the provisions of this act, when to them directed; and should any marshal or deputy marshal refuse to receive such warrant or other process when tendered, or to sue all proper means diligently to execute the same, he shall, on conviction thereof, be fined in the sum of one thousand dollars, to the use of the person upon whom the accused is alleged to have committed the offence. And the better to enable the said commissioners to execute their duties faithfully and efficiently, in conformity with the Constitution of the United States and the requirements of this act, they are hereby authorized and empowered, within their counties respectively, to appoint, in writing, under their hands, any one or more suitable persons, from time to time, to execute all such warrants and other process as may be issued by them in the lawful performance of their respective duties; and the persons so appointed to execute any warrant or process as aforesaid shall have authority to summon and call to their aid the bystanders or posse comitatus of the proper county, or such portion of the land or naval forces of the United States, or of the militia, as may be necessary to the performance of the duty with which they are charged, and to insure a faithful observance of the clause of the Constitution which prohibits slavery, in conformity with the provisions of this act; and said warrants shall run and be executed by said officers

anywhere in the State or Territory within which they are issued.

**Sec. 6.** And be it further enacted, That any person who shall knowingly and wilfully obstruct, hinder, or prevent any officer, or other person charged with the execution of any warrant or process issued under the provisions of this act, or any person or persons lawfully assisting him or them, from arresting any person for whose apprehension such warrant or process may have been issued, or shall rescue or attempt to rescue such person from the custody of the officer, other person or persons, or those lawfully assisting as aforesaid, when so arrested pursuant to the authority herein given and declared, or shall aid, abet, or assist any person so arrested as aforesaid, directly or indirectly, to escape from the custody of the officer or other person legally authorized as aforesaid, or shall harbor or conceal any person for whose arrest a warrant or process shall have been issued as aforesaid, so as to prevent his discovery and arrest after notice or knowledge of the fact that a warrant has been issued for the apprehension of such person, shall, for either of said offences, be subject to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding six months, by indictment and conviction before the district court of the United States for the district in which said offence may have been committed, or before the proper court of criminal jurisdiction, if committed within any one of the organized Territories of the United States.

**Sec. 7.** And be it further enacted, That the district attorneys, the marshals, their deputies, and the clerks of the said district and territorial courts shall be paid for their services the like fees as may be allowed to them for similar services in other cases; and in all cases where the proceedings are before a commissioner, he shall be entitled to a fee of ten dollars in full for his services in each case, inclusive of all services incident to such arrest and examination. The person or persons authorized to execute the process to be issued by such commissioners for the arrest of offenders against the provisions of this act shall be entitled to a fee of five dollars for each person he or they may arrest and take before any such commissioner as aforesaid, with such other fees as may be deemed reasonable by such commissioner for such other additional services as may be necessarily performed by him or them, such as attending at the examination, keeping the prisoner in custody, and providing him with food and lodging during his detention, and until the final determination of such commissioner, and in general for performing such other duties as may be required in the premises; such fees to be made up in conformity with the fees usually charged by the officers of the courts of justice within the proper district or county, as near as may be practicable, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States on the certificate of the judge of the district within which the arrest is made, and to be recoverable from the defendant as part of the judgment in case of conviction.

**Sec. 8.** And be it further enacted, That whenever the President of the United States shall have reason to believe that offences have been or are likely to be committed against the provisions of this act within any judicial district, it shall be lawful for him, in his discretion, to direct the judge, marshal, and district attorney of such district to attend at such place within the district, and for such time as he may designate, for the purpose of the more speedy arrest and trial of persons charged with a violation of this act; and it shall be the duty of every judge or other officer, when any such requisition shall be received by him, to attend at the place and for the time therein designated.

**Sec. 9.** And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the President of the United

States, or such person as he may empower for that purpose, to employ such part of the land or naval forces of the United States, or of the militia, as shall be necessary to prevent the violation and enforce the due execution of this act.

**Sec. 10.** And be it further enacted, That upon all questions of law arising in any cause under the provisions of this act a final appeal may be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States.

SCHUYLER COLFAX,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

LA FAYETTE S. FOSTER,  
President of the Senate, pro tempore.

In the Senate of the United States, April 6, 1866.

The President of the United States having returned to the Senate, in which it originated, the bill entitled "An act to protect all persons in the United States in their civil rights, and furnish the means of their vindication," with his objections thereto, the Senate proceeded, in pursuance of the Constitution, to reconsider the same; and,

Resolved, That the said bill do pass, two-thirds of the Senate agreeing to pass the same.

Attest: J.W. Forney,  
Secretary of the Senate  
In the House of Representatives U.S. April 9th, 1866.

The House of Representatives having proceeded, in pursuance of the Constitution, to reconsider the bill entitled "An act to protect all persons in the United States in their civil rights, and furnish the means of their vindication," returned to the Senate by the President of the United States, with his objections, and sent by the Senate to the House of Representatives, with the message of the President returning the bill:

Resolved, That the bill do pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives agreeing to pass the same.

Attest: Edward McPherson, Clerk,  
by, Clinton Lloyd, Chief Clerk.

## **16. Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution (1866-1868)**

### **Amendment XIV.**

**Section. 1.** All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

**Section. 2.** Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

**Section. 3.** No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

**Section. 4.** The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

**Section. 5.** The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

## **17. Second Reconstruction Act (March 23, 1867)**

An Act supplementary to an act entitled "An act to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel states," passed March second, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, and to facilitate restoration.

Be it enacted, &c., That before the first day of September, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, the commanding general in each district defined by an act entitled "An Act to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States," passed March second, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, shall cause a registration to be made of the male citizens of the United States, twenty-one years of age and upwards, resident in each county or parish in the State or States included in his district, which registration shall include only those persons who are qualified to vote for delegates by the act aforesaid, and who shall have taken and subscribed the following oath or affirmation: "I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear, (or affirm,) in the presence of Almighty God, that I am a citizen of the State of \_\_\_\_\_; that I have resided in said State for \_\_\_\_\_ months next preceding this day, and now reside in the county of \_\_\_\_\_, or the parish of \_\_\_\_\_, in said State, (as the case may be;) that I am twenty-one years old; that I have not been disfranchised for participation in any rebellion or civil war against the United States, nor for felony committed against the laws of any State or of the United States; that I have never been a member of any State legislature, nor held any executive or judicial office in any State and afterwards engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof; that I have never taken an oath as a member of Congress of the United States, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, and afterwards engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof; that I will faithfully support the Constitution and obey the laws of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, encourage others so to do, so help me God;" which oath or affirmation may be administered by any registering officer.

**Sec. 2.** That after the completion of the registration hereby provided for in any State, at such time and places therein as the commanding general shall appoint and direct, of which at least thirty days' public notice shall be given, an election shall be held of delegates to a convention for the purpose of establishing a constitution and civil government for such state loyal to the Union, said convention in each State, except Virginia, to consist of the same number of members as the most numerous branch of the State legislature of such State in the year eighteen hundred and sixty, to be apportioned among the several districts, counties, or parishes of such State by the commanding general, giving to each representation in the ratio of voters registered as aforesaid, as nearly as may be. The convention in Virginia shall consist of the same number of members as represented the territory now constituting Virginia in the most numerous branch of the legislature of said State in the year eighteen hundred and sixty, to be apportioned as aforesaid.

**Sec. 3.** That at said election the registered voters of each State shall vote for or against a convention to form a constitution therefor under this act. Those voting in favor of such a convention shall have written or printed on the ballots by which they vote for delegates, as aforesaid, the words "For a convention," and those voting against such a convention

shall have written or printed on such ballots the words "Against a convention." The person appointed to superintend said election, and to make return of the votes given thereat, as herein provided, shall count and make return of the votes given for and against a convention; and the commanding general to whom the same shall have been returned shall ascertain and declare the total vote in each State for and against a convention. If a majority of the votes given on that question shall be for a convention, then such convention shall be held as hereinafter provided; but if a majority of said votes shall be against a convention, then no such convention shall be held under this act: Provided, That such convention shall not be held unless a majority of all such registered voters shall have voted on the question of holding such convention.

**Sec. 4.** That the commanding general of each district shall appoint as many boards of registration as may be necessary, consisting of three loyal officers or persons, to make and complete the registration, superintend the election, and make return to him of the votes, lists of voters, and of the persons elected as delegates by a plurality of the votes cast at said election; and upon receiving said returns he shall open the same, ascertain the persons elected as delegates according to the returns of the officers who conducted said election, and make proclamation thereof; and if a majority of the votes given on that question shall be for a convention, the commanding general, within sixty days from the date of election, shall notify the delegates to assemble in convention, at a time and place to be mentioned in the notification, and said convention, when organized, shall proceed to frame a constitution and civil government according to the provisions of this act and the act to which is it supplementary; and when the same shall have been so framed, said constitution shall be submitted by the convention for ratification to the persons registered under the provisions of this act at an election to be conducted by the officers or persons appointed or to be appointed by the commanding general, as hereinbefore provided, and to be held after the expiration of thirty days from the date of notice thereof, to be given by said convention; and the returns thereof shall be made to the commanding general of the district.

**Sec. 5.** That if, according to said returns, the constitution shall be ratified by a majority of the votes of the registered electors qualified as herein specified, cast at said election, (at least one half of all the registered voters voting upon the question of such ratification,) the president of the convention shall transmit a copy of the same, duly certified, to the President of the United States, who shall forthwith transmit the same to Congress, if then in session, and if not in session, then immediately upon its next assembling; and if it shall, moreover, appear to Congress that the election was one at which all the registered and qualified electors in the State had an opportunity to vote freely and without restraint, fear, or the influence of fraud, and if the Congress shall be satisfied that such constitution meets the approval of a majority of all the qualified electors in the State, and if the said constitution shall be declared by Congress to be in conformity with the provisions of the act to which this is supplementary, and the other provisions of said act shall have been complied with, and the said constitution shall be approved by Congress, the State shall be declared entitled to representation, and Senators and Representatives shall be admitted therefrom as therein provided.

**Sec. 6.** That all elections in the States mentioned in the said "Act to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States," shall, during the operation of said act, be by ballot; and all officers making the said registration of voters and conducting said

elections shall, before entering upon the discharge of their duties, take and subscribe the oath prescribed by the act approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, entitled "An act to prescribe an oath of office:" Provided, That if any person shall knowingly and falsely take and subscribe any oath in this act prescribed, such person so offending and being thereof duly convicted, shall be subject to the pains, penalties, and disabilities which by law are provided for the punishment of the crime of wilful and corrupt perjury.

**Sec. 7.** That all expenses incurred by the several commanding generals, or by virtue of any orders issued, or appointments made, by them, under or by virtue of this act, shall be paid out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

**Sec. 8.** That the convention for each State shall prescribe the fees, salary, and compensation to be paid to all delegates and other officers and agents herein authorized or necessary to carry into effect the purposes of this act not herein otherwise provided for, and shall provide for the levy and collection of such taxes on the property in such State as may be necessary to pay the same.

**Sec. 9.** That the word article, in the sixth section of the act to which this is supplementary, shall be construed to mean section.

## **18. Nathan Bedford Forrest (1865-1869)**

### **Forrest's Final Address To His Troops**

**Confederate Correspondence, Orders, And Returns Relating To Operations In Kentucky,  
Southwestern Virginia, Tennessee, Northern And Central Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, And West  
Florida, From March 16 To June 30, 1865.--#8  
O.R.--SERIES I--VOLUME XLIX/2 [S# 104]**

**HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY CORPS,  
*Gainesville, Ala., May 9, 1865.***

SOLDIERS: By an agreement made between Lieutenant-General Taylor, commanding the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, and Major-General Canby, commanding U.S. forces, the troops of this department have been surrendered. I do not think it proper or necessary at this time to refer to the causes which have reduced us to this extremity, nor is it now a matter of material consequence to us how such results were brought about. That we are beaten is a self-evident fact, and any further resistance on our part would be justly regarded as the very height of folly and rashness. The armies of Generals Lee and Johnston having surrendered, you are the last of all the troops of the C. S. Army east of the Mississippi River to lay down your arms. The cause for which you have so long and so manfully struggled, and for which you have braved dangers, endured privations and sufferings, and made so many sacrifices, is to-day hopeless. The Government which we sought to establish and perpetuate is at an end. Reason dictates and humanity demands that no more blood be shed. Fully realizing and feeling that such is the case, it is your duty and mine to lay down our arms, submit to the "powers that be," and to aid in restoring peace and establishing law and order throughout the land. The terms upon which you were surrendered are favorable, and should be satisfactory and acceptable to all. They manifest a spirit of magnanimity and liberality on the part of the Federal authorities which should be met on our part by a faithful compliance with all the stipulations and conditions therein expressed. As your commander, I sincerely hope that every officer and soldier of my command will cheerfully obey the orders given and carry out in good faith all the terms of the cartel.

Those who neglect the terms and refuse to be paroled may assuredly expect when arrested to be sent North and imprisoned. Let those who are absent from their commands, from whatever cause, report at once to this place or to Jackson, Miss.; or, if too remote from either, to the nearest U.S. post or garrison for parole. Civil war, such as you have just passed through, naturally engenders feelings of animosity, hatred, and revenge. It is our duty to divest ourselves of all such feelings, and so far as in our power to do so to cultivate friendly feelings toward those with whom we have so long contested and heretofore so widely but honestly differed. Neighborhood feuds, personal animosities, and private differences should be blotted out, and when you return home a manly, straightforward course of conduct will secure the respect even of your enemies. Whatever your responsibilities may be to Government, to society, or to individuals, meet them like men. The attempt made to establish a separate and independent confederation has failed, but the consciousness of having done your duty faithfully and to the end will in some measure repay for the hardships you have undergone. In bidding you farewell, rest assured that you carry with you my best wishes for your future welfare and happiness. Without in any way referring to the merits of the cause in which we have been engaged, your courage and determination as exhibited on many hard-fought fields has elicited the

respect and admiration of friend and foe. And I now cheerfully and gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the officers and men of my command, whose zeal, fidelity, and unflinching bravery have been the great source of my past success in arms. I have never on the field of battle sent you where I was unwilling to go myself, nor would I now advise you to a course which I felt myself unwilling to pursue. You have been good soldiers, you can be good citizens. Obey the laws, preserve your honor, and the Government to which you have surrendered can afford to be and will be magnanimous.

N. B. FORREST,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

## **19. Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution (1869-1870)**

### **Amendment XV.**

**Section. 1.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

**Section. 2.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## **20. First Enforcement Act: Civil Rights Act of 1870**

### **Major Provisions of Civil Rights Act of 1870, 16 Stat. 140 (1870).**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all citizens of the United States who are or shall be otherwise qualified by law to vote at any election... shall be entitled and allowed to vote at all such elections, without distinction of race, color, or previous condition of servitude....

**SEC. 2.** And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of every person and officer to give to all citizens of the United States the same and equal opportunity to perform [any] prerequisite, and to become qualified to vote without distinction of race, color, or previous condition of servitude; and if any person or officer shall refuse or knowingly omit to give full effect to this section, he shall... be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction thereof, be fined not less than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not less than one month and not more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

**SEC. 6.** And be it further enacted, That if two or more persons shall band or conspire together, or go in disguise upon the public highway, or upon the premises of another, with intent to violate any provision of this act, or to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen with intent to prevent or hinder his free exercise and enjoyment of any right or privilege granted or secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having exercised the same, such persons shall be held guilty of felony, and, on conviction thereof, shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, at the discretion of the court, -the fine not to exceed five thousand dollars, and the imprisonment not to exceed ten years, - and shall, moreover, be thereafter ineligible to, and disabled from holding, any office or place of honor, profit, or trust created by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

**SEC. 17.** And be it further enacted, That any person who, under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, shall subject, or cause to be subjected, any inhabitant of any State or Territory to the deprivation of any right secured or protected by the last preceding section [giving all persons the same rights as white citizens] of this act, or to different punishment, pains, or penalties on account of such person being an alien, or by reason of his color or race, than is prescribed for the punishment of citizens, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction, shall be punished by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both, in the discretion of the court.

## **21. Civil Rights Act of 1875**

### **The Civil Rights Act of March 1, 1875**

Whereas it is essential to just government we recognize the equality of all men before the law, and hold that it is the duty of government in its dealings with the people to mete out equal and exact justice to all, of whatever nativity, race, color, or persuasion, religious or political; and it being the appropriate object of legislation to enact great fundamental principles into law: Therefore,

*Be it enacted*, That all persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of inns, public conveyances on land or water, theaters, and other places of public amusement; subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law, and applicable alike to citizens of every race and color, regardless of any previous condition of servitude.

**SEC. 2.** That any person who shall violate the foregoing section by denying to any citizen, except for reasons by law applicable to citizens of every race and color, and regardless of any previous condition of servitude, the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges in said section enumerated, or by aiding or inciting such denial, shall, for every such offense, forfeit and pay the sum of five hundred dollars to the person aggrieved thereby, . . . and shall also, for every such offense, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than five hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, or shall be imprisoned not less than thirty days nor more than one year . . .

**SEC. 3.** That the district and circuit courts of the United States shall have exclusively of the courts of the several States, cognizance of all crimes and offenses against, and violations of, the provisions of this act . . .

**SEC. 4.** That no citizen possessing all other qualifications which are or may be prescribed by law shall be disqualified for service as grand or petit juror in any court of the United States, or of any State, on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude; and any officer or other person charged with any duty in the selection or summoning of jurors who shall exclude or fail to summon any citizen for the cause aforesaid shall, on conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and be fined not more than five thousand dollars.

**SEC. 5.** That all cases arising under the provisions of this act ... shall be renewable by the Supreme Court of the United States, without regard to the sum in controversy ...

## **22. Chapter 130, Acts of Tennessee, 1875**

Introduced as House Bill No. 527 by Representative R. P. Cole, Paris, Tennessee  
(Democrat representing Henry, Carroll, Gibson, and Weakley counties).

DOCUMENT ONE [*Actual bill as amended and passed.*]

A Bill – To define the rights, duties, and liabilities of Inn Keepers, Common Carriers, and Proprietors of places of public amusement.

**1<sup>st</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Tennessee – That the rule of the Common Law giving a right of action to any person excluded from any Hotel or public means of transportation or place of amusement, is hereby abrogated, and hereafter no keeper of any Hotel or public House, or carrier of passengers for hire or conductor, driver or employee of such carrier or keeper of any place of amusement or employee of such keeper shall be bound, or under any obligation to entertain carry or admit any person whom he shall for any reason whatever choose not to entertain carry or admit to his house Hotel carriage or means of Transportation or place of amusement nor shall any right exist in favor of any such person so refused admission but the right of such keepers of Hotels & public Houses carriers of passengers & keepers of places of amusement and their employees to control the access & admittance or exclusion of persons to or from their public Houses – means of Transportation & places of amusement shall be as perfect and complete as that of any private person over his private house carriage or private theatre or places of amusement for his family.

**Sec 2<sup>nd</sup>** \_\_\_\_\_ Be it further enacted That a right of action is hereby given to any keeper of any Hotel Inn Theatre or public House common carrier and restaurant against any person guilty of turbulent or riotous conduct within or about the same, and any person found guilty of so doing may be indicted & fined not less than one hundred dollars, and the offender shall be liable to a forfeiture of five hundred dollars and the owner or person so offended against may sue in his own name for the same.

**Sec 3** \_\_\_\_\_ Be it further enacted that this act shall take effect from and after its passage the public welfare requiring it.

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[*On reverse*]

Passage Recommended by Judiciary Committee. W. A. Quarles, Chm.  
HB 527 Passed 1<sup>st</sup> Rdg. Mch 9<sup>th</sup>  
Rfd. J. C.  
Passed 2<sup>nd</sup> Rdg. Mch 10<sup>th</sup>  
Amended & passed 3<sup>rd</sup> Rdg. Mch 11<sup>th</sup>  
R.P. Cole

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Passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading Mch 12  
Passed 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading March 22 1875  
Passed 3d Reading March 23 1875

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DOCUMENT TWO [*Original bill as first presented*]

H. B. 527

A bill to define the rights, duties & liabilities of Innkeepers – Common Carriers – Proprietors of places of public amusements

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Passed 1<sup>st</sup> Rg. Mch 9

Referred to J. C.

Passed 2 Rg Mch 10

S.O. 1042.11 Mch. 10

Amended & Passed 3d Rg Mch 11

R. P. Cole

Henry

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A bill, to define the rights, duties, and liabilities of Inn Keepers, Common Carriers and Proprietors of places of public amusement, ~~in view of the passage of the Act of Congress, commonly called the Civil rights bill.~~

1<sup>st</sup> Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee [written in pencil, “here see ament.”]: That it shall be lawful, for the Keeper of any public inn, hotel or restaurant, the proprietors officers or employees of any stage, hack or omnibus line, of any railroad, steamboat or other water craft, or of any conveyance, engaged in whole or in part, in the business of carrying and transporting passengers, the proprietor or manager of any theater Circus, menagerie, museum or other place of amusement in this State, to make additional charges rates and fares for, or to exclude them from, in his discretion, any person or persons, whose hair has a spiral curvature, not greater than one fourth of one inch radius, without regard to race color or previous condition of servitude.

[*A notation in the margin next to Section 1 says “out.”*]

2. Be it further enacted: That it shall be lawful for such inn-keeper, hotel keeper, or restaurateur, Carriers of passengers by land or by water, and proprietors or managers of places of public amusement, to discriminate, in these charges rates and fares, or to exclude from their places of business conveyances and places of amusement, at their discretion, any person or persons, who are unable to draw a perpendicular from the occipital bone to the ground, without impinging the heel or os calcis of such person or persons, without regard to race color or previous condition of servitude.

3 Be it further enacted: That it shall be lawful for the persons aforesaid to make such discrimination in charges rates and fares against, or to exclude from their said places of business and amusement and from their conveyances aforesaid, any and all person or persons, as in their discretion shall seem right and proper, whose nasal bone does not present an elevation of one fourth of one inch, at a point three fourths of one inch below its incidence with the os frontis, of such person or persons, without regard to race color or previous condition of servitude.

4 Be it further enacted: That it shall be lawful for such persons by regulating their charges rates and fares, or by any other lawful means, to exclude, from their said places of business or amusement, or from their said conveyances by land or by water, any person or persons, the bottom of whose feet describes a parabolic curve, the asymptote of which, is equidistant from the point of departure and incidence, without regard to race color or previous condition of servitude.

5 Be it further enacted – That it shall be lawful for all such persons so engages in the business aforesaid, by an adjustment of their charges rates and fares, or by any means not unlawful, in their discretion, to exclude or to reject, from their said places of business or amusement or from their ~~said~~ conveyances either by land or by water as aforesaid, any person or persons whose secretions from the sebaceous or sudorific glands evolve any subtle oderous atomic fluid, so painfully irritating the nerves of the schneiderian membrane, that by its reflex action in the pneumogastric nerve the stomach becomes, or is likely to become excited to nausea, without regard to race color or previous condition of servitude.

6. Be it enacted: That the person or persons aforesaid engaged in the business and occupations aforesaid, may in their discretion, exclude, from their said places of business and amusement, and from their conveyances, any person or persons whose ancestors were canibals [*sic*], or were guilty of the practice of voodooism, without regard to race color or previous condition of servitude.

7. Be it enacted – That it shall be lawful for all such persons so engaged in the business and occupations aforesaid, in their discretion to demand from all person or persons who shall offer to patronize or require their services in the business aforesaid, to produce, and show, a certificate from the Keeper of Weights and Measures attested ~~by the Clerk of the County Court~~, as to his official character, by the Clerk of the County Court, of the County, in which, each person or persons last resided, showing that by actual measurement, mathematical calculation or geometrical demonstration, as the case may require, that he she or they are not obnoxious to any of the objections provided against in the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> sections of this Act: and any person or persons, who is deemed to be obnoxious to the 5<sup>th</sup> section of this act, may in the discretion of said innkeeper common carriers or proprietors of places of amusement, be required to bring or produce one quart bottle of “Labarque’s Solution of Chlorinated Soda” as a disinfectant, without regard to race color or previous condition of servitude.

8. Be it enacted, That if any person from whom such certificate or disinfectant has been demanded, shall by force, fraud, misrepresentation or by producing any false or forged certificate, or spurious disinfectant, less potent than the one required by the foregoing section, gain admission into any public inn hotel, restaurants, stage coach, omnibus, railroad car, steamboat, water craft of any description, theater or other place of amusement may be prosecuted for a misdemeanor, or sued in any Court of record in this state, having common law jurisdiction, in an action qui tam, and shall forfeit and pay not less than five hundred dollars, nor more than one thousand dollars, one half of which shall go to the informers, and the other half to the Commissioner of Emigration, for colonization purposes, and shall be imprisoned not less than thirty days not more than one year without regard to race color or previous condition of servitude.

9 – Be it enacted: That if any innkeepers hotel keepers or keeper of a restaurant or any railroad company or its employees, or any common carriers of any description whatever, or any proprietor of a theater or other place of amusement, or other employer, shall willfully or negligently fail to asset and insist upon his or their rights and privileges as provided for in this Act, shall be liable to presentment or indictment, in any Court of record in this state having common law jurisdiction, or may be said in an action qui tam in such court, and shall forfeit and pay, ~~the sum of five hund~~ not less than the sum of five hundred dollars, nor more than one thousand dollars, and be imprisoned for not less than thirty days, nor more than one year, and shall for the space of five years be ineligible [*sic*] to any office of honor profit, or trust, in this state, and incompetent as a witness or

juror for the period of ten years, from the date of his conviction, without regard to race color or previous condition of servitude.

**10 – Be it enacted:** That all laws, or parts of laws, statutory or common laws, in conflict with the provisions of this act, be, and the same are hereby abrogated and repealed – and hereafter, no right of action shall exist against any innkeepers, common carriers or proprietor of places of amusement, or employees of either, for refusing to secure and accommodate any guest, to transport any passenger, or admit any visitors, whom he may desire excluded from his place of business conveyance or place of amusement – without regard to race color or previous condition of servitude—

[A notation in the margin next to Section 10 says “out.”]

**11 – Be it enacted.** That this act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

[A notation in the margin next to Section 11 says “in.”]

R. P. Cole

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DOCUMENT THREE [Suggested amendment, later adopted.]

[Note handwritten on the back of a sheet of House of Representatives stationery, which identified it as “Amendt to H. B. 523 – Adopted.”]

**Sect 2:** Be it further enacted. That a right of action is hereby given to any keeper of any Hotel, Inn, Theatre or other public house common carrier or restaurant – against any person guilty of turbulent or riotous conduct, within or about the same and any person found guilty of so doing may be indicted and fined not less than five hundred dollars and the offender shall be liable to a forfeiture of five hundred dollars – and the owner or person so offended against may sue in his own name, for the Sum—

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DOCUMENT FOUR [Message from Judiciary Committee]

The Judiciary Committee to whom was referred House bill No. 527 relative to rights, liabilities & privileges of Hotel Keepers, & Common carriers, & proprietors of places of public amusement – report that they have had the same under consideration – and fully approve of the principles embodied therein – but think object intended to be attained by the author can be reached by striking all after the enacting clause of said Bill to Section 10 thereof — & making section ten read as set forth in the section attached to this report.

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DOCUMENT FIVE [Suggested amendment from Judiciary Committee, later adopted.]

Offered as Amendment, or rather indices of section ten—

Be it enacted

That the rule of the common law giving a right of Action to any person, who is without case excluded from any hotel or public means of transportation or place of amusement, is hereby abrogated, and hereafter no Keeper of any Hotel, or public House, or carrier of passengers for hire or conductor driver or employee of such Carrier, or Keeper of any place of employment, or employee of such Keeper shall be bound, or

under any obligation to entertain carry or admit any person, whom he shall for any reason whatever choose not to entertain carry or admit to his House, Hotel, carriage or means of Transportation or place of amusement not shall any right exist in favor of any such person so without cause refused admission, but the right of such Keepers of Hotels & public Houses Carriers of passengers & Keepers of places of Amusement & other Employes to control the access and admittance of exclusion of persons to or from their public houses, means of transportation & places of amusement shall be as perfect and complete as that of any private person over his private house carriage or private theatricals or places of amusement for his family—

## **23. Chapter XC, Acts of Tennessee, 1875**

An Act to provide for the establishment, and to prescribe rules for the Government of a Normal School, or Schools, in the State of Tennessee, in connection with the Public School System Thereof.

Whereas, An adequate supply of professionally educated Teachers is a necessity to the maintenance of an efficient system of Public Schools; and

Whereas, All proper and needed facilities for this purpose should be afforded by the State to its citizens; and

Whereas, Suitable buildings and grounds have been offered for a Normal School or Schools in various localities in the different divisions of the State; therefore

**Section 1.** Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee. That the establishment of a Normal School or Schools is hereby authorized to be effected by the Board of Education, hereinafter provided for. The said Normal School or Schools shall be made in every respect first-class institutions for the professional education of teachers, and that the most approved methods of instruction shall be adopted, and none but teachers experienced and skilled shall be employed to take charge of them.

**Sec. 2.** Be it further enacted, That said State Board of Education shall, at as early a date as may in their judgment be practicable, locate and make arrangements for opening such Normal School or Schools, furnishing them, adopting a course of study, employing teachers and other officers.

**Sec. 3.** Be it further enacted. That in the location of said Normal School or Schools the State Board of Education shall give preference to such locality, accessible to all parts of the State, as shall offer, gratuitously, the most suitable grounds and buildings for the establishment of the same: Provided, that nothing in this Act shall be so construed as to authorize the expenditure of money from the State Treasury, or school funds of the State.

**Sec. 4.** Be it further enacted, That said State Board of Education may receive contributions of money from the Trustees of the Peabody Education Fund, or donations of property or funds from any other sources, for the benefit of this enterprise, which they shall in good faith dispose and disburse, in accordance with the conditions of the donations.

**Sec. 5.** Be it further enacted, That the Trustees of Colleges, Universities or educational institutions, shall have power to give the use of their property to the State Board of Education for the benefit of Normal Schools.

**Sec. 6.** Be it further enacted, That no pupil shall be admitted into said schools who is under sixteen or over thirty years of age, and who shall not have undergone satisfactorily such examination as may be prescribed by the State Board of Education. Those already engaged in teaching may enter said Normal School or Schools as pupils upon conditions fixed by the State Board of Education.

**Sec. 7.** Be it further enacted, That pupils of the Public Schools may be recommended for admission into said Normal School or Schools by the County Superintendent, on consultation with the Directors of the School Districts of his county, and in cities by the Superintendents of Public Schools, and such pupils so recommended, and who pass a satisfactory examination, shall have precedence over all other applicants.

**Sec. 8.** Be it further enacted, That diplomas shall be granted to those who honorably complete the course of study presented in said schools; and the possession of said diploma shall exempt the holder thereof from the examination prescribed as a condition precedent to employment in the public schools of the State; any such graduate being eligible as a teacher in any county of the State.

**Sec. 9.** Be it further enacted, that the same registers, records and reports, which are prescribed in the State School Law for the public schools, or which may be ordered by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall be kept by the officers, and teachers of said Normal Schools; and regular reports shall be made directly to the State Superintendent, at the times and in the manner required by law for other public schools, or at such other time as he may require.

**Sec. 10.** Be it further enacted, that the State Board of Education shall keep such Normal Schools as may be established, for white and colored pupils, entirely distinct and separate: Provided, that the provisions therein for training and improvement, shall be impartially proportioned to the demands of each.

**Sec. 11.** Be it further enacted, That the salaries of principals, teachers and other officers of said Normal Schools, and all other expenditures, shall be determined by the State Board of Education, and the disbursements shall be made by the Treasurer of the Board, upon its order.

**Sec. 12.** Be it further enacted, That the State Board of Education shall elect its own Treasurer and Secretary, and prescribe their compensation.

**Sec. 13.** Be it further enacted, That the Governor of the State shall appoint a State Board of Education to consist of six members; two of whom shall be appointed for six years, two for four years, and two for two years, and after the expiration of their first terms of office, their successors shall be appointed for six years; the Governor of the State shall be ex officio a member and President of said Board.

**Sec. 14.** Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of said Board of Education to report through the Superintendent to the regular meeting of the General Assembly, the operations of the Board, the condition and progress of Normal Schools with such suggestions as they may deem advisable for the improvement of Normal and Public Schools.

**Sec. 15.** Be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed March 23, 1875

Lewis Bond  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Thomas H. Paine  
Speaker of the Senate

Approved March 23, 1875

James D. Porter  
Governor.

## **24. Samuel A. McElwee: Speech to the General Assembly (1887)**

- I. Samuel McElwee's Speech to the Tennessee Legislature, February 23, 1887, on the subject of mob violence. From *The Union*, Nashville, February 23, 1887.

### **Mob Violence**

#### **Mr. McElwee's Speech on That Subject Yesterday An Earnest Appeal for Stronger Enactments Against Judge Lynch**

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In support of his bill to prevent mob violence yesterday, Mr. McElwee said:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: This is a very important bill and ought to arrest the attention of every member of this house. I desire in a few brief remarks to give my reasons for asking for the passage of this bill, and I trust you will hear me patiently for my country's cause. In this age of Christian civilization, and educated as we are in religious institutions, surely there is no one in this body who will oppose a measure that seeks to prevent mob violence in the state of Tennessee. This bill seeks to prevent a great and growing evil in our state and punish those who take the law into their own hands and render a verdict without trial or jury. Mobs under any and all circumstances are wrong, and the strong arm of the law should take hold of the participants and punish them severely. In speaking of my opposition to mob violence I wish to do so under the head of four indictments which I regard as germane to the discussion of this question. First indictment, mob violence is wrong; second, mob violence drives capital from the state; third, it demoralizes society; fourth and last, but by no means least, nine-tenths of the victims of mob violence in the south are negroes. Mob violence is wrong because it is in direct conflict with the constitution of the state and of the United States. It is then what every democrat would be pleased to call an unconstitutional act. It is a relic of barbarism and should be condemned by every community.

Section 6 of the constitution of the state says: "That the right of trial by jury shall remain inviolable." Section 8 of the constitution says: "That no man shall be taken, or imprisoned, or disseized of his freehold, liberties or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled or in any manner destroyed or deprived of his life, liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers or the law of the land." Mobs in their madness often get the wrong parties and compel them to answer for crimes which they never committed. When some fiend gets into a neighborhood and commits a crime that causes a dark cloud to hover over the sweetness of a once beautiful home and happy family, the community feels outraged and public sentiment demands a victim as a sacrifice for the deed. Under the impulse of the hour, with the crime fresh in every mind, there are those who feel as if they are called upon to avenge the wrong done society. Thus they rise, and in their frenzy for human blood override every lawful tribunal and violate every principle of human justice. Some party is found; it is agreed that he must die for the sin committed; the cry is raised, Away with him; kill him by our law; he must die, and let his blood be upon us and our children, and let the example serve as a notice to all the others. The rope is adjusted, the guns discharged and into eternity another soul, prepared or unprepared, flies. Several days pass, the passions of men give place to judgment and sober thought, remorse and regret take hold of a guilty conscience and begin to unravel, thread by thread, a line of evidence or confession that establishes beyond a doubt that the wrong party was mobbed.

Again a cloud of darkness comes over that community and you can hear on every lip these words, the English language is wanting in terms with which to express my condemnation of the recent mob. The last state of that community, in outraged feelings, is seven times worse than the first. It suffers woes unspeakable, too sad to swell upon and too tender to be written. Mr. Speaker and gentlemen, think of the number of homes destroyed in this way and the suffering brought on by such a course, and the sentiment will sink deep down into your souls and find judgment there, mob violence is wrong, mob violence is wrong. The law of our land fixes the punishment for every crime. If the penalty is not severe enough, let us “lay on, Macduff, and damned be he that first cries, hold, enough.” When a crime has been committed, a community outrages and society wronged, let the citizens, irrespective of color or creed, hunt down the guilty party and assist the officers of the law in ferreting out the wrong-doer. Our law condemns no man before he is heard. When he has been heard and every doubt of his guilt has been removed, let him suffer the penalty, not that he may meet his deserts and satisfy the law, but because the general good requires it.

Again, mob violence is wrong because it violates that injunction of holy writ which says, “Thou shall not kill.” Any killing which is not legalized by the law of the land violates this injunction. “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord,” and no set or crowd of men have any right to attempt to avenge any wrong by resorting to mob violence. The motives to mob violence are found in the impulse of the desires and passions. The desires and passions should never be gratified when they come in conflict with the claims of benevolence. Mob violence is wrong and should not longer be tolerated. Mr. Speaker, let us now notice the effects of mob violence upon the development of a country, as you know mob violence drives capital from a community, crippled the industries of the people and causes property to depreciate in value. Capital seeking investment is influenced by the intellectual and moral character of the community in which the investment is made. Men who have lived in communities where the intellectual and moral atmosphere is good will not consent to invest their means in neighborhoods where their children will be exposed to the contamination of vice. Capital seeks investment where the moral character of the people, the prevailing sentiment of the community, is a protection from dishonesty, robbery and mob violence. Tennessee is truly a great state, fertile in soil, salubrious in climate, abounding in mineral resources, dotted with the finest timbers in the south. It has all the conditions of true greatness and by wise legislation it can be made the most desirable state in the south for the investment of capital. Let us the, as far as it is possible, enact such laws that will drive from our midst and beyond the borders of our state every element of mob violence. Let Tennessee with her boasted institutions of civilization take a high stand in favor of order and law; and by so doing serve notice on this southern country that the time is now ripe for every man under the American flag, who is charged with a crime, though he be blacker than the Egyptian night, have the protection vouchsafed by the constitution of the state. By so doing we will induce capital to remain with us and invite it to seek out fields. Let the legislation of this honorable body upon this and all other questions looking to the development of the resources of our state and the promotion of the general good, be such that the people may understand that “No pent-up Utica confines” [*phrase quoted from the American Republic by O.A. Brownson*] our statesmanship, but it runs coextensive with our commonwealth. Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen, mob violence demoralizes society and renders the lives of men uncertain. It demoralizes because it involves a disregard of the absolute good. All

vice tends to corrupt good morals. Mob violence is a vice of the most heinous character, and as such it demoralizes society and makes moral cowards of men who ought to take a high stand in favor of law and right. The influences which mobs awaken tend to dwarf the intellectual man and weaken the sensibilities so that man is disqualified and unfit for that high and lofty state intended by the Creator for moral beings. The harm and injury done society in this way cannot be measured by finite beings. God made this globe and He governs the material universe by certain fixed laws, and in so doing He teaches men that law and order are our first great structure. Men in society are bound by certain obligations to do that which will promote and insure the happiness of those around them. Any act which violates the underlying principles of human society, and leads to the discomfort of its members, causes distrust and has a demoralizing effect upon all parties concerned. Mr. Speaker, the influences started by mob violence are as damning in effect upon the morals of a people as those which grew out of the condition of slavery. Mr. Speaker, we desire now to notice mob violence under the head of the fourth count of our indictment. I recognize the fact that all men are very sensitive and selfish in their nature, therefore, in my advocacy of this measure, under this head, I shall speak with proper regard for the feelings of every man. Mr. Speaker, I would not offend anyone by my remarks on this bill, and I shall not offend anyone, only him the truth offends. Nine-tenths of the victims of mob violence in the south are negroes. Why is this? Is it because negroes commit nine-tenths of the crimes in the south? Or is it because negroes are afraid to assert their rights? Can it be that public sentiment in this land favors the wholesale mobbing of negroes? Give us an answer to this question and remove the stigma that calls in question the moral status of this people. It is very common as you look through the great dailies of the country and note the dispatches, you will see some place named in Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana or Texas with the following inserted:

“Memphis Appeal: Two Negroes Taken From Jail and Lynched in Georgia. Chattanooga, Dec. 11.: Last night about 11 o’clock, a mob of masked men visited the jail at Ringold, in Catoosa county, Ga., and after overpowering the jailer took out two prisoners, names George Sparks and Monroe Smith, both negroes, and taking them to a point near the railroad south of town, hanged them to a tree, where they were found this morning and cut down by the authorities. Both of the negroes have been engaged in robbing and burning houses in North Georgia for some months, and had come to be the terror of the community. Smith confessed the crime of which the two had been guilty. The latest crime was robbing and attempted burning of a family residence near Ringold, on which occasion Smith said they had plotted to murder everybody in the house, rob the building and then fire it. There is no clue to the identity of the lynchers.”

It is remarkable to note the sameness with which all these reports read; it seems as if some man in this country had the patent by which these reports are written. Statistics do not show the number of negroes who have in the past few years been sentenced in Judge Lynch’s court, but judging from the number coming under our observation we are convinced that the number is most astounding. So prevalent and constant are the reports flashed over the country in regard to lynching of negroes that we are forced to seek shelter with the poets and cry, “O for a lodge in some vast wilderness, some boundless contiguity of shade, where rumor of oppression and deceit, of successful or unsuccessful mobs might teach me more.” [from William Cowper, *The Task* (1785), Book II, “*The Timepiece*”] My ear is pained, my soul is sick with every day’s report of wrong and

outrage perpetrated upon the negroes by mob violence. I am not here, Mr. Speaker, asking any special legislation in the interest of the negroes, but in behalf of a race of outraged human beings. I stand here today and enter my solemn protest against mob violence in Tennessee. Hundreds of negroes, yes thousands, from all parts of this south's land, are to-day numbered with the silent majority, gone to eternity without a tomb to mark their last resting-place, as the result of mob violence for crimes which they never committed. As we to-day legislate on this question the spirits of these negroes made perfect in the paradisiacal region of God, in convention assembled, with united voices, are asking the question, "Great God, when will this nation treat the negro as an American citizen, whether he be in Maine, among her tall pines, or in the south, where the magnolia blossoms grow?" Mr. Speaker, Tennessee should place the seal of eternal condemnation upon mob violence. "Your sins will find you out." [*Numbers* 32:23] The spirit of God will not always strive with man. For years American slavery was the great sin of the nation. In the course of time God made clear his disapproval of this national sin by a national calamity. Four years of destructive and bloody war rent our country in twain and left our southland devastated. the war came as the result of sin; let us sin no more lest a greater calamity befall us. We have had several cases of mob violence in Tennessee within the past six months. The saying that "light itself is a great corrective" [*James A. Garfield, 1831-1881*] is as true as trite. What is the position of the public press on mob violence?

I stand here today, Mr. Speaker, as a member of this body and a lover of my people, and indict the public press of the state for condoning, by its silence, the wrongs and outrages perpetrated upon the negroes of the state by mob violence. Who doubts for a moment but that the public press of the state could burn out mob violence in Tennessee as effectually as the mirrors of Archimedes burned the Roman ships in the harbor of Syracuse? Read the dailies and the majority of the weeklies, and you will find them on the mobs at Jackson, Dyersburg and McKenzie as dumb as an oyster. The mob at Dyersburg <sup>(1)</sup> took place in broad daylight and as a result of that mob, hundreds of Negroes refused to attend the second exhibition of the West Tennessee Colored Fair association, which was held at Dyersburg in October, 1886. The mob at Jackson <sup>(2)</sup> is without a parallel in the annals of the state. Go with me, Mr. Speaker and gentlemen, to Jackson and look at that poor woman, with that weakness and tenderness common to women, as she is taken from the jail and followed by that motley crowd to the courtyard. The bell is rung, they enter the jail and strip her of every garment, and order her to march – buffeting, kicking, and spearing her with sharp sticks on the march. "She was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before her shearer, so opened she not her mouth." She was swung up, her body riddled with bullets and orders issued not to interfere with her until after 9 o'clock the next morning, in order that she might be seen. Men who spoke against it and said it was an outrage had to leave town. Others who thought of giving vent to their feelings en masse by series of resolutions were told that they had better not attempt it. Mr. Speaker, society prepares crime, and the criminal is only the instrument by which it is accomplished.

I therefore again indict the public press and citizens of Madison county for the foul play upon the person of Eliza Wood, and hold them to a strict account before the bar of eternal justice for the wrong done. The mobs at Jackson, McKenzie and Dyersburg are mentioned because they are the most recent, not because they are exceptional or that we lack other examples. Grant, for the sake of argument, that these parties were guilty, does

that make it right and accord with our principles of justice? When the citizens of Madison, Dyer and Carroll <sup>(3)</sup> go to judgment with the blood of Eliza Wood, Matt Washington, and Charles Dinwiddie on their garments, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in that day than it will be for Jackson, Dyersburg, and McKenzie. For 250 years, Mr. Speaker, we were regarded as chattel. More than twenty years ago we were made citizens, and as such we ask at your hands that protection which is common to American citizens. The sainted Garfield told us to go home and make friends with our neighbors. We are here today knocking at your door and ask that you “entreat us not to leave you or return from following after you: for whither you go we will go, and where you lodge we will lodge; your people shall be our people, and your God our God; where you die will we die, and there will be buried; the Lord do so to us, and more also, if aught but death part you and us.” [*Ruth 1:16-17*] If this mob violence continues, its influence upon society will be worse than the malign influence which Cataline wielded over the reckless and abandoned youth of Rome. Mob violence is sowing in America a seed that will ripen in a conspiracy that will eclipse in gigantic proportions the great conspiracy of Cataline to lay Rome in ashes and deluge its streets in blood, for the purpose of enriching those who were to apply the torch and wield the dagger. Mr. Speaker, the time has passed in the history of this nation for race wars. We cannot afford it. There are, at present, questions of very great importance demanding the attention of both races. They call for the united effort on the part of both. The labor question, tariff and public service are all important, the interest of the white man is the interest of the black man, that which hurts one will hurt the other; therefore, as a humble representative of the negro race, and as a member of this body, I stand here to-day and wave the flag of truce between the races and demand a reformation in southern society by the passage of this bill.

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[Note: “In 1888, the year after McElwee delivered this speech, there were 137 lynchings in the United States – 17 more than the previous year.” *Tennessean*, 13 Feb., 1971]

<sup>(1)</sup> 14 Oct. 1886 Matthew Washington, a black man, was lynched for rape in Dyer, Tennessee.

<sup>(2)</sup> 18 Aug. 1886 - In Jackson, Tennessee, when a white woman died of poisoning. Eliza Woods, her African American cook, was suspected because of a box of rat poison found in her room. When the mob had worked itself to the lynching pitch, she was stripped, dragged out of jail, and hanged in the public court-house square. The State Supreme Court was meeting in Jackson, but no one was arrested, and no protest was made. The poisoned woman’s husband, who was mentally ill, later confessed to the crime on his deathbed.

<sup>(3)</sup> 15 Nov. 1886 - Charles Dinwiddie, an African American, was lynched for robbery in Carroll County, Tennessee.